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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
19 May 2008—6 June 2008

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19 May 2008

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 19 May 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Teachers' Review Body

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Following the publication of the 17th Report Part 1 of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) (Cm 7252) on 15 January 2008, to which I responded in a statement of that date, I have today written to consultees with the outcomes of my consultation on the report and my response. Copies of the letter are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and in the Libraries of the House and at http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay.

I have also considered the outcomes of the consultation on the 17th Report Part 2 of the STRB (Cm 7352), published together with my statement on 9 April 2008. I shall be following up a number of recommendations from that report concerning teachers' professional responsibilities and leadership in the context of the next remit which I set for the STRB. I shall also be taking forward the recommendations regarding short-notice teachers' pay arrangements as set out in my 9 April statement, and seeking to ensure that account is taken of the particular position of unattached teachers in both the pay and the wider policy agenda.

I have today also written to the social partners, inviting them to consider what improvements we could make to the experience of teachers in the early years of their career. I believe that such teachers are in particular need of support and that we should together look at ways in which their careers can be given the best possible start. I have placed copies of this letter in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth and Culture Council

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): The Education, Youth and Culture Council will be held on 21 and 22 May in Brussels. Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Minister for Heritage for Wales, will be representing the UK on 21 May when Culture and Audiovisual issues will be taken. Education and Youth issues will be taken on 22 May.

The first item on the agenda concerns the Council conclusions on a European approach to media literacy in the digital environment. The new audiovisual media services directive calls for the "development of media literacy in all sections of society" and for close inspection of progress in media literacy. It sets out a reporting obligation for the Commission to measure levels of media literacy in all the member states. In January this year the Commission adopted a communication on the development and promotion of media literacy. The UK's main proposals on the text have been incorporated in to the conclusions that reflect the UK view that it will be appropriate to assess recent developments in this area and monitor the extent of media literacy in member states—as required under the new AVMS directive—before coming forward with proposals for a recommendation. The Council is expected to adopt the conclusions and the Government intend to endorse this course of action.

The presidency will then seek to reach a general approach on the proposal establishing a multi-annual Community programme on protecting children using the internet and other communication technologies. This proposal is a renewal of the existing safer internet plus programme and will run from 2009-13. The programme promotes the safer use, particularly by children, of the internet and other online technologies, fighting illegal and harmful internet content ranging from child pornography to incitement to racial hatred. It carries out this aim by a combination of funding for various programmes and by fostering co-operation between a wide range of organisations from business to child welfare NGO's. The Government intend to support this proposal.

There will then be an exchange of views on the communication on creative content online in the single market which was adopted by the Commission in January this year after consultation with stakeholders in Government and industry. The Communication establishes a "Content Online Platform" that would bring together experts from across Europe in a forum for discussion. It also outlines the Commission's plan for a recommendation of the Council and Parliament on this area, due in the autumn. The scope of this recommendation is currently not defined, but it is likely to cover Digital Rights Management Systems, Multi-Territory Rights ~~Licensing and Legal Offers and~~ Piracy. The UK's response to the Communication stated that we are not convinced that regulatory action at the European level at such an early stage in the development of this sector is the correct approach; work on Digital Rights Management (DRM) is already being undertaken in several member states; the Commission's evaluation of this issue would benefit from greater use of a more rigorous evidence base; engaging with stakeholders is the right approach but the Commission needs to ensure that their views are incorporated into any future proposals. The Presidency is now asking two questions of Ministers at the Council: What are the challenges facing creative content online? And where would an EU-level initiative add value? Our contribution to the exchange of views will be similar to our original response.

The Council will then be invited to adopt conclusions on intercultural competences. The conclusions recognise, in this the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the importance of such dialogue as a key tool in addressing some of the challenges Europe currently faces. Intercultural competences are defined as communication in foreign languages, social and civic skills and cultural awareness and expression. Member states and the Commission are invited to promote intercultural competences through existing initiatives in the fields of culture, education and youth and audiovisual policy.

The conclusions on Intercultural Competences have been discussed and finalised at official level and the Council is now expected to adopt the conclusions at this meeting. The Government intend to support the adoption of these conclusions.

The presidency will seek the adoption of Council conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2008-10. In February this year the Presidency drafted a discussion paper for member states on the Work Plan for Culture 2008-10 based on the five priority areas for action set out in the resolution on a European Agenda for Culture adopted by the Council in November 2007. Working groups set up under each priority and chaired by member states will be consulted on the preparation of the studies relevant to their field of competence. These conclusions, which have been negotiated and agreed at official level, outline the objectives for each priority area. The UK has interests in all these areas, in particular the groups on the creative economy and on improving the mobility of collections. The Government intend to support the adoption of these conclusions.

Under Any Other Business, the Presidency and Commission will provide information on the state of play of proposals on the review of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services. The Commission will present the Communication on the protection of consumers, in particular minors, in respect of the use of video games. Belgium will raise concerns about satellite television channels from outside the EU which broadcast anti-Semitic material and incitement to hatred and terrorism and which can be received within the EU. The Council may invite the Commission and the Presidency to consider what measures can be taken to deal with such channels. Also under Any Other Business will be an information item from the Swedish delegation raising concerns on the definition of the concept of books with regard to reduced VAT. The Government do not foresee any need to intervene on any of these items.

DEFENCE

National Recognition Study

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I wish to acknowledge the publication today of the report of the independent inquiry into the national recognition of the armed forces carried out by my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stafford (Mr Quentin Davies). My hon. Friend was invited by the Government last December to examine ways of improving the nation's understanding and appreciation of the Armed Forces.

The Government warmly welcome this report which is both comprehensive in its coverage, and is based on extensive consultation including with members of the royal family and both Houses of Parliament, devolved Assemblies, civic leaders, serving and retired military personnel, Armed Forces support organisations and charities, religious leaders, business and the media.

The report makes many recommendations. Many of these will require detailed consideration or further work. But I am pleased to announce that the Government accept immediately a number of them and these will be implemented as soon as possible. They include greater encouragement on the wider use of uniforms in public, the creation of a British Armed Forces And Veterans' day, more systematic arrangements for homecoming parades and ceremonies for the award of campaign medals and veterans' badges and an examination of the options to strengthen cadet forces and on other education-related measures. The Government will engage with other organisations on those recommendations that are beyond the sole responsibility of Government—for example, on the proposals to improve relations with Parliament, local government, the business community and the media. We will be responding fully to all the recommendations as soon as possible.

I am very grateful to my hon. Friend and his team—Mr Bill Clark and Air Commodore Martin Sharpe from the Ministry of Defence—for producing this report. It provides firm foundations to ensure that the work of our service personnel is better understood and recognised by the nation they serve.

Copies of the report are being placed in the Library of the House, the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My 2008 departmental report, which contains information on progress against the Department's strategic priorities, public service agreement targets, the challenges ahead and summary expenditure plans for 2007-08, will be laid before Parliament today. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The report is also available on DEFRA's website.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I will be representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels.

There is only one substantive item on this month's agenda, concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, on which the presidency is seeking political agreement on a Commission proposal.

The following issues will be raised under any other business:

> The Agriculture Commissioner will provide an update on the WTO-DDA negotiations.
>
> Romania will highlight the role small scale farms have to play in the future of European agriculture.
>
> The presidency will make a presentation to Council on the agricultural market situation and the evolution of agricultural and food prices.
>
> Lithuania will request the renewal of export refunds for skimmed milk powder, butter, cheese and preserved milk products.
>
> The Czech Republic will draw the Council's attention to its concerns regarding the Commission's draft general block exemption regulation (GBER) which sets up horizontal rules of national public funding for undertakings linked to agricultural activities.

HEALTH

Departmental Annual Report

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The Department's annual report for 2008 (Cm 7393) was laid before Parliament today.

The report is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

UK Border Agency Detention Estate

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): The UK Border Agency now removes an immigration offender every eight minutes. This includes failed asylum seekers, overstayers and a record number of foreign prisoners.

We have set ourselves further aggressive targets to continue to increase the rate of removals, backed up with a doubling of enforcement resources.

This extra budget, made available in part by higher visa fees, will enable the agency to:

conduct 5,000 illegal working operations in 2008-09—on average twenty operations every working day;

deport 5,000 foreign prisoners by the end of the year;

conclude the majority of new asylum cases within six months by the end of the year; and

clear outstanding "legacy" asylum claims by summer 2011.

This increased activity will require the detention prior to removal of larger numbers of people.

Detention is necessary to ensure that immigration offenders do not abscond while the final stages of their removal are being arranged. Detention can also be used to "fast track" new asylum claims by housing applicants in centres with dedicated teams of case workers. This allows their cases to be decided quickly leading either to faster integration in the UK for successful applicants, or faster removal for those whose claims are refused.

To underpin the increased activity we are increasing the capacity of the detention estate by an extra 900 places on existing sites before the end of 2009:

New spaces at both Dover and Oakington will add around 100 spaces this year.

Brook House near Gatwick airport will contribute more than 420 places when it opens in February 2009.

New wings at Harmondsworth removal centre, near Heathrow airport, will contribute a further 370 beds by December 2009.

We are also announcing today feasibility studies into two new secure sites where planning permission will be sought:

The site already owned by the Home Office outside Bicester, Oxfordshire.

The site adjacent to the existing Home Office-owned centre at Yarl's Wood in Bedfordshire.

Plans for the centres will be presented to local councils in the coming months. Subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents, at least one of these sites will be progressed within the next year, leading to a further 400-600 detention places being available by 2012.

This will increase capacity against today's total by between 1300 and 1500 spaces.

All new centres will be built to Prison Service category B/C standard and will offer high quality and secure accommodation for detainees and staff.

JUSTICE

Tribunals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I have today published the Government response to the "Transforming Tribunals, Implementing Part 1 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007" consultation paper. Copies have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the internet at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp3007.htm.

On behalf of the Government, I would like to thank all those who took the time to contribute to this extremely important debate on the future of tribunals delivery. Their insight and knowledge has proved invaluable in writing this response. The Government would also like to thank its Ministers and officials in other Government Departments for engagement and support in the implementation of the Act. In addition the Government are grateful to the Tribunal's Service senior judiciary for their contribution and guidance throughout the consultation period.

Part 1 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 is a continuation of the reforms set into motion by Sir Andrew Leggatt in his paper "Tribunals for users: One System, One Service"[1]. The 2007 Act creates a two-tier tribunal structure, the first-tier tribunal and upper tribunal, which will bring together existing Ministry of Justice tribunals and tribunals in other Government Departments. The first-tier tribunal will be the natural starting place for most jurisdictions, with onward appeal to the upper tribunal, which will also have the power to deal with judicial review work delegated from the High Court.

The response paper confirms that there will be social entitlement; general regulatory; health, education and social care; taxation and land, property and housing chambers in the first-tier tribunal and administrative appeals; finance and tax and lands chambers in the upper tribunal. Each of the chambers will be lead by chamber presidents under the supervision of the Tribunal Service senior president, Lord Justice Carnwath. All existing jurisdictions will be transferred into these chambers along with their judges and members. The Act allows for judges and members to sit in additional jurisdictions within their own or another chamber, if they satisfy the eligibility criteria for that chamber, and subject to training.

The Act also creates a "Tribunals Procedure Committee" that will be responsible for making tribunal procedure rules, and will bring greater consistency and simplicity to rules across jurisdictions. Appointments have been made to the Committee and it will shortly begin consultation on procedure rules for the new tribunals.

The Government are committed to ongoing transformation of the tribunal environment, placing the user at the very heart of the service. In addition to the statutory changes introduced by the Act, the Tribunals Service is also undertaking a programme of work creating a network of multi-jurisdictional hearing centres, re-engineering administrative processes to improve case management, and exploring alternatives to standard hearings such as mediation, conciliation, and support and advice services. The implementation of the Act works alongside this transformation and is a vital part of it.

[1] "Tribunals for Users: One System, One Service—Report of the Review of Tribunals" by Sir Andrew Leggatt, The Stationary Office, March 2000.

Departmental Annual Report

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have today laid before Parliament the 2007-08 departmental annual report for the Ministry of Justice (CM 7397).

The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. It brought together the former responsibilities of the Department for Constitutional Affairs with the National Offender Management Service from the Home Office and the trilateral Office of Criminal Justice Reform. The new Department has a wide-ranging remit with major responsibilities for prisons and probation, the courts and tribunals, legal aid and more, as well as important policy responsibilities ranging from constitutional reform and devolution, democracy and human rights to the justice system. When the Department was set up, the then permanent secretary commissioned a review to develop proposals for a new structure and ways of working to equip the Department better to deliver on its aims and objectives.

Two other pieces of work have further improved the Department's focus on its aims and objectives: Lord Carter's report on prisons and the partnership between the Lord Chief Justice and me in the operation of the courts. The new top structure of the Department came into place on 1 April with more detailed changes being implemented over the next few months to provide a coherent structure for managing the Department's key challenges on public protection and reducing reoffending, constitutional reform and access to justice. This streamlined top structure and new ways of working will help the Department to implement Lord Carter's recommendations on offender management services, to ensure the successful operation of new arrangements for the courts and to focus more clearly on its key policy and delivery challenges.

The new structure will allow the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to build on its success and take forward Lord Carter's proposals for nationalising management structures and reducing overhead costs. It will also bring NOMS and the Prison Service together and streamline its headquarters so as to improve the focus on frontline delivery of prisons and probation and improve efficiency.

This report highlights the achievements made by the Ministry of Justice and looks to the future at how the new structure aims to provide the department with a sharper focus on its key priorities. This includes public protection and reoffending and improving relations with the judiciary while streamlining leadership across the whole of the Department's agenda. It will ensure a much more joined up approach to issues of justice and constitutional reform, with a clearer focus on efficiency through the removal of duplication and overlapping responsibilities.

The report is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-2008.htm

TRANSPORT

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I have today published my Department's annual report for 2008 (CM 7395). Copies have been laid before Parliament and placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report sets out the Department's activities and achievements over the last year. It also describes the Department's future expenditure plans for the period of the spending review 2007.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Government Equalities Office

The Minister for Women and Equality (Ms Harriet Harman): Last summer, we set out the Government's priorities for women. These included increasing the number of black and Asian and minority ethnic women on local councils.

A report produced by Simon Woolley, head of Operation Black Vote, has today been published on the Government Equalities Office website, highlighting the scale of under-representation in our democracy.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic women account for less than 1 per cent. of England's 20,000 councillors. To be more representative of society as a whole, the number of black, Asian and ethnic minority women councillors needs to be increased more than fivefold—from 168 of all councillors in England to nearer a thousand.

At Westminster, the under-representation is even more marked. Only 19.5 per cent. of Members of the House of Commons are women and of these only two come from minority ethnic communities. There has never been an Asian woman MP.

To make local councils more representative, we are today setting up a taskforce that will be chaired by Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green. The taskforce will last for 12 months, with an option to review and extend this.

The taskforce members will include black and Asian and minority ethnic women councillors and former councillors from every region in England and from Scotland and Wales. The taskforce will identify and take practical action to increase awareness and build confidence and skills; reach out into communities to encourage women to step forward to become local councillors; identify and tackle barriers within political parties; and reduce disadvantage and stereotyping from within and outside the communities.

The taskforce will be supported in its work by the Ministers for Women and Equality and a secretariat will be provided by the Government Equalities Office. Full details of the taskforce, its membership and terms of reference are available on the Government Equalities Office website.

The Prime Minister has proposed to the Speaker that he call a Speaker's conference to consider, against the backdrop of a decline in turnout, a number of important issues including the representation of women and ethnic minorities in the House of Commons. The Speaker's conference and the taskforce we are announcing today will play a vital role in ensuring that we take steps to make progress.

The taskforce will be working closely with the Department of Communities and Local Government, who will soon be responding to the Councillors Commission report "Representing the Future" which made recommendations aimed at reducing barriers and increasing the incentives for people to stand and serve as councillors. The report looked at the wider issues of widening the pool of local councillors to increase representation from all under represented groups—women, people from black and minority ethnic communities, people of working age, young people and disabled people.

The Government do not consider that the time is right to take legislative measures to permit all-BAME election shortlists.

Departmental Annual Report

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): I am today able to announce the publication of the Department for Work and Pensions departmental annual report. The report provides details of the Department's performance in 2007-08 against its public service agreement targets and sets out the Department's expenditure plans for 2008-09. Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 20 May 2008

TREASURY

Asset Freezing Regime

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): In a written ministerial statement of 10 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 11WS, the previous Economic Secretary undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter-terrorism asset freezing regime. This is the sixth of these reports and covers the period January to March 2008.[1]

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter January to March 2008, the Treasury made two domestic designations under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.

One of these was a person already designated under earlier orders.

The Terrorism Order and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Order provide, where appropriate, for designations to be made confidentially and with restricted circulation of notice.

No persons were designated on this basis in this quarter.

The two persons were designated on the basis of closed source material provided by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

There were no financial sanctions listings at the EU or the UN in relation to terrorism or al-Qaeda and the Taliban of persons with links to the UK.

A total of 263 separate accounts containing over £650,000[2] of suspected terrorist funds are currently frozen in the UK.

Reviews

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review. A number of formal reviews have been initiated in this quarter and the review of four cases was completed. In all cases a decision was taken to delist the designated person.

Licensing

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002), the Treasury operates a licensing system whereby designated persons and others are able to apply to make or receive payments under specific and, if necessary, monitored conditions. In this quarter, the following licences were issued:

6 listed persons were granted legal expenses licences.

12 listed persons were granted basic expenses licences;

(1 of which was for benefits payments); and

no listed persons were granted extraordinary expenses licences.

In addition, the households of three listed persons were granted benefits licences in accordance with the policy set out in the previous Economic Secretary's statement of 3 July 2006 to Parliament.

Litigation

At the close of the reporting period there were eight active challenges against the UK's asset-freezing regime pending in the High Court.

On 24 April the judgment in the High Court case of A, K, M, Q & G - v - HM Treasury was handed down, with the court ordering that the relevant legislation be quashed, but staying the effect of this to allow an appeal to be made. HM Treasury was granted leave to appeal. In the meantime, the asset-freezing regimes, and individual asset-freezes, remain in place.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure represents the balance of the accounts at the time they were frozen and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using current exchange rates. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

Tax Credits

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): National statistics published today demonstrate the substantial contribution tax credits are making to deliver guaranteed minimum incomes for working families and families with children, reducing child poverty, and helping more people into employment.

The statistics published by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) show that in 2006-07 the child and working tax credits were benefiting around 6 million families and 10 million children.

The statistics also show that in 2006-07:

more working people on low incomes without children received tax credits than ever before, with 305,000 receiving support through the working tax credit, up by 12 per cent. on 2005-06;

384,000 families benefited from the childcare element of the working tax credit, a 13 per cent. increase compared with 2005-06, thereby making childcare more affordable and giving parents more choice in how they balance work and family life; and

10 per cent. more families benefited from extra help for workers with a disability compared to 2005-06, helping these individuals overcome the labour market disadvantage they face.

Significantly, the figures show that efforts to reduce overpayments of tax credits have resulted in a £700 million reduction in overpayments since 2005-06. The level of overpayments is now less than half the level in 2003-04.

There has also been a corresponding decline in the numbers of overpaid awards, from 1,879 thousand in 2003-04 to 1,291 thousand in 2006-07.

The Government remain committed to the current responsive system of tax credits, which in 2006-07 provided additional support to the 720,000 families experiencing an income fall. While this progress is welcome, I recognise that there is more to do, building on the success of the measures put in place since 2005. That is why the Government are today publishing a number of proposals to continue improvements to the tax credits system, drawing on lessons learnt from the first five years of tax credits in the UK, and the experience of similar systems in Australia and New Zealand.

These proposals are set out in "Tax Credits—Improving Delivery and Choice: A Discussion Document" published today. They focus on three key areas.

First, HMRC is introducing further operational improvements aimed at tailoring support more closely to individuals' needs and making it easier for customers to claim, receive and renew tax credits, to reduce the scope for error.

Secondly, the document sets out a number of proposals that retain the ability for tax credits to provide additional, timely support to customers whose income falls or whose circumstances change, while giving customers greater certainty and more control over how they manage their tax credits affairs.

Thirdly, it sets out a range of possible options to reform the delivery of financial support for childcare through tax credits, simplifying the system as far as possible for customers.

Some of these reforms are already being introduced and are delivering improvements for tax credit customers. Others will be brought forward in the next few years; while some of the proposed reforms, particularly to the system of childcare support, are much longer term. The Government are therefore keen to seek views, in order to inform longer-term policy development.

"Tax Credits—Improving Delivery and Choice: A Discussion Document" is being deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Young People

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I would like to bring the House up to date about measures that are intended to improve the outcomes for some of our most vulnerable young people and to help children at risk of falling behind with their education.

Around 135,000 children and young people each year are in some kind of alternative provision because they are excluded from, or for some other reason are unable to attend, mainstream school. These children and young people are currently provided for either in local authority-run pupil referral units or in other alternative provision commissioned by local authorities and schools. Only 1 per cent. of 15-year-olds in pupil referral units gain five or more good GCSE examination results.

The Government are publishing a White Paper that will transform alternative provision into a vibrant and successful part of the whole education system, working in close partnership with mainstream schools, special schools, with children's services and other agencies, to meet the needs of young people more effectively.

Some of the most vulnerable children and young people are in some kind of alternative provision, and they have as much right as any other pupil to a good education that allows them to realise their potential and sets them on the path to success. The White Paper emphasises the key role for schools in identifying children with challenging behaviour early on, and being able to access the right support before they reach the point of permanent exclusion.

We recognise that there is much good practice in pupil referral units and other forms of alternative provision. However, we are determined to bring all providers of alternative provision and other support for children and young people up to the standard of the best so that we achieve a step change improvement in standards overall. Our proposals include:

intervening when pupil referral units fail, by requiring local authorities to replace them with a specified alternative, as announced in the draft legislative programme;

requiring a local authority, when necessary, to hold a competition to find the best provider of the specific alternative model that has been identified to replace a failing pupil referral unit;

collecting and publishing data annually on attendance at pupil referral units;

collecting and publishing educational outcomes data (GCSEs and equivalents) for pupils at the end of key stage 4 in alternative provision;

ensuring that all young people in alternative provision have a personalised education plan, so that their needs can be identified and assessed much earlier;

securing an appropriate curriculum entitlement for young people in alternative provision and work towards developing a national minimum standard of provision;

improving support for the workforce in pupil referral units and alternative provision and improving accommodation and facilities;

running up to 10 pilots to test a range of innovative and good practice models to deliver alternative provision.

We are confident that the proposals in this White Paper will address the weaknesses in the system and help young people get successfully back on track by creating a culture of early intervention, quality of provision, and strengthened accountability.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): We want to see a modern, efficient and secure electoral system, so that voting for all electors is as convenient and as straightforward as possible. In 2009 many electors are due to vote on two separate occasions within a space of four weeks, firstly in local council elections on 7 May, and secondly for the European Parliament on 4 June.

Accordingly, I am today publishing a consultation document inviting views on whether or not we should, subject to parliamentary approval, move the date of the English local elections from Thursday 7 May 2009 to Thursday 4 June 2009, the same day as the European parliamentary election. This consultation meets the statutory requirement set out in section 60 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which makes provision for the Secretary of State by Order to make such a change in the local election date.

In launching this consultation we have had regard to the experience in 2004 when local and European parliamentary elections were held on the same date. The turnout at those European elections was significantly higher than in previous years, up from 24 per cent. in 1999 to 38.5 per cent. We have also had regard to the Electoral Commission's conclusions in 2004 that the combination of the elections was an important factor in the improved turnout. It commented that before the next European parliamentary elections in 2009 further consideration would need to be given to the potential impact of the combination of elections.

In particular we are seeking views on:

whether the local elections in 2009 should be moved from 7 May to 4 June, so that they are held on the same day as the European parliamentary elections;

whether, if we move the elections to principal authorities, we should also move the date of parish council elections where they are scheduled to take place on 7 May 2009;

what practical issues may arise as a result of combining local (and where applicable, parish) elections with the European parliamentary elections; and

what action could be taken to address these practical issues - whether by local authorities, Government or the Electoral Commission.

I have placed copies of the consultation document in the Library of the House and it is also available on the departmental website. The consultation period ends on 11 August 2008. Under the 2007 Act, any Order to move the local elections in 2009 must be approved by parliament and made by 7 November 2008.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to inform the House we have completed the necessary alignment of work schedule, commercial arrangements and planned annual expenditure, in relation to the Future Aircraft Carriers. This enables us to move ahead with the companies of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance to progress the contract for the manufacture of the two carriers to be named HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, which will enter service in 2014 and 2016 respectively. Following finalisation of legal arrangements and the formation of the planned naval shipbuilding and support Joint Venture Company, formal contract signature will take place. We have given our written assurance to the VT Group and BAE Systems of our intention to sign the contract once the company has formed.

The carriers will provide our front-line forces with the modern, world-class capabilities they will need over the coming decades. The work on the carriers will create or sustain 10,000 jobs across UK at the peak of its production.

Helicopters (Operations)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The provision of battlefield helicopter capability in Iraq and Afghanistan has attracted considerable interest among hon. Members and the British public. I therefore felt it would be helpful to set out in some detail, within the constraints of operational security, the current position, and our future intentions.

This statement does not cover our wider plans on helicopters: it is focused on our plans relating to current operations over the next two years. At the same time, I am keen that hon. Members appreciate the wider context. While we are focused on providing as much helicopter support as we can to troops on operations, we must also manage our helicopter fleet to ensure that we maintain a sustainable capability in the future. One question often asked by hon. Members is why the number of helicopters deployed is significantly less than the number in our inventory. The answer is that the number deployed is limited by the need to keep the burden on our airframes, crews and ground support staff at a sustainable level over time. We also have to make aircraft available in the UK for training, maintenance and essential modification programmes. This means that, as a rule of thumb, it takes three additional helicopters to sustain the deployment of a single helicopter on operations.

To this first principle we have added recently a second principle, which is that if possible, each helicopter type should be deployed in only one operational theatre at any time. Concurrent deployment of a single type in both theatres increases the pressure on crews and supervisory staff, with implications for our ability to train them effectively between deployments, for harmony ratios, and ultimately the risk of them leaving the service. On the positive side, focusing each helicopter type in one theatre has allowed us to rationalise our logistics and support arrangements. We have completed the process of consolidating our medium and heavy fleets across the two theatres, with Merlin and Puma in Iraq, and Chinook and Sea King in Afghanistan.

Against the background of these two principles, we are making significant progress in enhancing UK helicopter capability for operational commanders. I have approved the decision to commit the Merlin fleet (alongside Puma) to Iraq, to support our continuing efforts to train and mentor the Iraqi army, and maintaining the ability to re-intervene in extreme circumstances. We intend to deploy a further two Merlin to Iraq towards the end of this summer.

Turning to Afghanistan, the drawdown in Iraq has enabled us to remove Sea King from Iraq and, working with AgustaWestland, to fit them with new, state-of-the-art main and tail rotor blades to deliver improved performance in hot and high conditions, and deploy them to Afghanistan. They are performing extremely well, and a further two helicopters deployed last month.

Through the deployment of the Sea Kings, and improvements to support and crewing arrangements for Chinook and Apache (assisted by the consolidation of types in one theatre), we have increased the total amount of flying time—measured by the number of hours per month—available to commanders in the south of Afghanistan by over a third since last March. (We do not release the total number of helicopters or hours for reasons of operational security: it would allow others to infer too much about our overall capability.) But we are clear that commanders on the ground will always be able to use more helicopters, and we are determined to continue to make every effort to give them the options they need.

Chinook is the UK support helicopter best suited to the demanding hot and high conditions in Afghanistan. In the last six months, we have ramped-up the maintenance regime and logistics support to increase the HC2/2a Chinook flying rate on operations by 20 per cent.

In relation to Apache in Afghanistan, we are clear about the importance of ensuring that we maximise this proven battle winning capability. We deployed the Apache on operations three years ahead of schedule, and have been increasing steadily on the number of Apache flying hours available to commanders each month—most recently by a further 15 per cent. at the end of March. We aim to increase flying hours by a further 25 per cent. by early next year, by deploying additional helicopters, and we are building the logistic support required in terms of spare parts and personnel, particularly engineering manpower, to enable this.

Finally in relation to Afghanistan, it is important to recognise that we are operating there as part of a wider NATO effort, and we draw significantly on helicopter assets provided by allies. We continue to work with allies to identify opportunities for further increases in the capability of the overall NATO fleet. For example, the UK and France have undertaken to support initiatives to set up training courses for crews, and to upgrade aircraft—and recently we established, and agreed to provide seed funding for, a helicopter fund to help improve the availability of NATO and EU helicopters on operations. There were expressions of interest in this latter initiative from several countries at the recent NATO summit in Bucharest, and we are following these up.

In addition, since February 2008, NATO has had in place a commercial helicopter contract designed to enable the movement of freight across the whole of Afghanistan. This contract was recently replaced in the south of Afghanistan by a new contract specifically to deliver the movement of up to 10,000 kilograms of freight per day for the Kandahar hub in Regional Command (South), freeing up a significant number of flying hours for Chinook (and the Apache which support them) for higher priority tasks. In the hotter summer months, this can enable the equivalent of an additional four Chinook sorties per day. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the contracts closely and assess whether there are opportunities to shift any more of our helicopter tasking on to contractors.

That completes the summary of current initiatives on operations. In relation to additional capacity for the future, in March 2007 the Prime Minister and I announced we would be investing in additional support helicopters, purchasing six Merlins from Denmark, and modifying eight Chinook HC3 helicopters to a support role. We stated at the time that this choice of projects had been based on their potential to generate additional capability for operations over the following two years. In relation to Merlin, it should be noted that this sort of timeline—under two years from procurement to fielding—is much shorter than the standard either in the UK or internationally.

Rightly, we have set ourselves challenging targets; and we are making progress towards meeting those targets.

Since the delivery of additional Danish Merlins to the UK last July, the aircraft have been undergoing a complex conversion to meet the UK standard, carried out in partnership with AgustaWestland. We have been modifying the aircraft to a standard where they are suitable for operations in Iraq, including the installation of improved communications systems and state-of-the-art main rotor blades. Three have now been delivered to the RAF for training purposes. The remaining three will be delivered this summer. The addition of these six helicopters will increase the Merlin battlefield helicopter fleet by 25 per cent. and will enable us to deploy the further two Merlin to Iraq this summer referred to above. In the longer-term it remains our intention to deploy Merlin to Afghanistan, and we are looking at what further steps we can take now to shorten the lead-in times ahead of any possible deployment.

We are also making progress with the HC3 Chinooks. This conversion programme involves a redesign of the cockpit area and avionics bays, as well as the modifications necessary to operate in Afghanistan. A contract is in place with Boeing to carry out the conversion work, and we have secured funding from the reserve for the additional theatre-specific modifications necessary for Afghanistan. The project is on schedule for the first converted Chinook to be fielded in late 2009, allowing the Chinook force to begin deploying more helicopters to theatre. The remaining seven will become available over the following months, the last one entering service during the first half of 2010. This is some two years in advance of previous options to field these aircraft. All other enabling personnel and support issues have been planned and funded to coincide with the delivery of the modified aircraft to the front line, thus ensuring that we are ready to deploy them at the earliest opportunity.

I hope that hon. Members will recognise from this short summary that despite the challenges and constraints in this area, we have made significant progress both in delivering additional capability from within our existing assets, and in procuring and adapting additional assets to give operational commanders additional options over the next two years. This is not an area where we can ever afford complacency, but I believe this summary demonstrates that we are on the right path.

WORK AND PENSIONS

International Labour Conference

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The 96th session of the International Labour Conference 2007 adopted a new convention 188 and recommendation 199 on work in the fishing sector. I have today published a White Paper entitled "International Labour Conference—Proposed Action on a Convention and Recommendation Adopted at the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference 2007", copies of which are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Better Off in Work Credit

The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Command Paper, "Ready for Work: Full Employment in our Generation" (published 13 December 2007) announced that the Department will pilot a Better Off in Work Credit

(BWC) in October 2008. The purpose of the credit is to encourage customers to obtain and retain employment by ensuring that, on moving into full time work, they will receive an in-work income (including in-work benefits and working tax credit) of at least £25 a week more than they received from their out-of work benefits. The credit will be paid by Jobcentre Plus for up to a maximum of 26 weeks. It will be available to customers who have been receiving incapacity benefit (employment and support allowance on its introduction), income support, jobseeker's allowance or severe disablement allowance for at least 26 weeks prior to obtaining work. We estimate that nationally this could help approximately 110,000 people, about 35,000 of whom will have children.

Today I can announce that Jobcentre Plus will pilot the new measure in all districts in the Yorkshire and Humber region, a total of 59 Jobcentre Plus offices. We estimate that there are around 12,000 individuals who would be eligible for the credit each year in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Following evaluation of the pilot we will look to extend the credit nationally in 2009.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 21 May 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

EU Council

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): The Deputy UK Permanent Representative, Andy Lebrecht, will attend the Youth Council on 22 May. There is only one agenda item.

Ministers will be asked to adopt a resolution on participation by young people with fewer opportunities. This calls for increased efforts to ensure that young people from less advantaged backgrounds are able to participate in employment, education and training and avoid social exclusion. It suggests a number of measures which help improve outcomes, including early intervention and a cross-sectoral approach. The UK is content with this approach to youth policy.

There will be a related exchange of views on how member states' policies help to ensure participation by young people with fewer opportunities and how they intend to improve their practice in future. The UK has a good story to tell and will concentrate on the Every Child Matters agenda, 14-19 reform and the positive activities being promoted through Aiming High in England and equivalent programmes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Belgium has asked for an Any Other Business item on the use of the mosquito alarm for dispersing groups of young people.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Yorkshire and Humber Plan

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is publishing today the Yorkshire and Humber Plan, the revised Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), replacing the RSS published in December 2004.

The Yorkshire and Humber Plan is crucial to delivering the Government's sustainable communities and growth agenda in the region. It builds on the foundation of the draft plan published by the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly in 2006 and takes account of the two rounds of public consultation and independent Examination in Public that followed. In total 2,276 representations were received from 201 people and organisations. Over a third of these representations were expressions of support, while the remainder suggested further or alternative changes to the RSS. I have considered all of these representations, and also updates to the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment required under the legislation which confirm that the revised plan should help deliver sustainable development. I have decided that no further major policy changes are required, although amendments and clarifications have been made to various parts of the plan.

The most notable aspects of the final revisions to the plan are as follows:

Confirmation of the Spatial Vision and Core Approach of the plan as set out in the proposed changes, with recognition of Bradford as a "Regional City" (in addition to Leeds, Sheffield and Hull) and the addition of a reference to helping to deliver the target set in the regional economic strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Confirmation of the increased levels of housing growth set out in the proposed changes (over 22,000 per year between 2008 and 2026), with minor increases in three rural districts. This is supported by a new policy, based on Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing and other elements of the plan, to manage the step up in delivery that this requires.

Confirmation of the increased levels of potential job growth as set out in the proposed changes, with clarification of how these are intended to be delivered in different parts of the region through detailed wording to the policies about city and town centres and employment land reviews.

Confirmation of the policy set out in the proposed changes that local authorities should set targets for decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy in new development, with the addition of an interim target of 10 per cent. to be used in certain circumstances.

Recognition of Robin Hood Airport as a regionally significant investment priority, operational and related development at the airport, and development elsewhere in South Yorkshire arising from the airport's important role as an economic driver.

The plan represents a step change in addressing housing need in Yorkshire and the Humber but falls short of what is likely to be required in the longer term to meet the Government's Housing Green Paper target. The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly are committed to carrying out a further partial review of the plan to consider housing growth, taking account of latest evidence, Eco Towns and New Growth Points. This will be completed by 2011 as required by the Green Paper.

Copies of the Yorkshire and Humber plan are available in the Libraries of both Houses and have been provided for all the region's MPs and MEPs. Copies will be sent today to all local authorities, the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and Yorkshire Forward (the Regional Development Agency). Hundreds of other stakeholders will be informed of how to obtain a copy.

DEFENCE

Equipment Project

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to inform the House that we have taken a major step towards the procurement of new naval tankers, as part of the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) project, to support the Royal Navy on global operations worldwide. We have set a worldwide competition for the design and build of these new fleet tankers and have now selected four companies with whom we look forward to working to develop our plans further. We urgently need new double-hulled tankers and recognise that UK capacity may not be available. The four companies that will work alongside the Department over the coming months for the new MARS fleet tankers are: Fincantieri (Italy); Hyundai (Republic of Korea); Navantia (Spain); and a consortium of BAE Systems (UK) with BMT DSL (UK) and DSME (Republic of Korea).

Following the competition, the MOD will make a final decision in 2009 to select one of the companies/consortia to design and build these new ships.

The new fleet tankers, the first element of the MARS programme, will comply with the highest international environmental standards, provide a much improved working environment for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel, and allow the full range of Royal Navy operations to continue around the globe for 25 years from their launch.

Later elements of the MARS programme may provide opportunities for UK industry but no decisions have been made on how these later ships will be procured.

RAF Regiment

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I should like to inform the House that I have decided to establish permanently an additional RAF Regiment Field Squadron, (15 Squadron RAF Regiment) and a RAF Force Protection Wing Headquarters (No. 7 RAF Force Protection Wing Headquarters).

15 Field Squadron RAF Regiment and No. 7 Force Protection Wing Headquarters will increase the RAF Regiment's capability, will reduce the time that their personnel spend on operational tours and, it is anticipated, have a positive effect on recruitment and retention.

15 Squadron RAF Regiment has been formed by combining and re-roling the two remaining RAF Rapier Squadrons (15 and 26 Squadrons) which were otherwise due to disband on 31 March 2008. The new squadron was formed as a temporary measure for deployment on Op HERRICK from August 2007 to February 2008. Following this decision it will now be permanently established at RAF Honnington.

No. 7 Force Protection Wing Headquarters will be manned by personnel who have been re-allocated from across the RAF to meet current operational priorities and will be based at RAF Coningsby.

RAF Aerobatic Team

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am able to inform the House today of the outcome of the Royal Air Force study that has been undertaken to consider the future basing requirements for the RAF Aerobatic Team (RAFAT) known as the Red Arrows. The aim of the study was to consider future basing options and to make recommendations on the most suitable option in terms of operational effectiveness and value for money.

Based on the recommendations of the study, I have decided that, subject to trade unions consultation, the RAFAT will operate from RAF Waddington and continue to use the dedicated airspace above RAF Scampton to complete their acrobatic displays.

This will result in some 100 service personnel being relocated from RAF Scampton to RAF Waddington. Two civilian posts will be part of this move. Other members of civilian staff who work within the airfield support services at RAF Scampton may be affected by the reduction in the use of the station's runway. This is the subject of further work. Accordingly, we will be formally consulting with the trade unions over the two personnel affected by this relocation. We will also inform the trade unions that other civilians may be affected.

The RAFAT's relocation will be complete by 31 July 2011.

HEALTH

Death Certification (England and Wales)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The Government have today published a summary of responses to the consultation paper setting out proposals for improving the process of death certification in England and Wales. The proposals are intended to address the weaknesses in the current system for certifying death which were identified by the Shipman inquiry.

The vast majority of respondents supported the proposed introduction of a process of secondary certification of all deaths that are not referred to the coroner, and for this scrutiny to be undertaken by appropriately qualified medical examiners. The Department is now working with stakeholders to take forward these proposals.

The proposed improvements to the process of death certification complement the Government's proposals for introducing a statutory duty for medical practitioners to report deaths to the coroner. A summary of responses to the public consultation on these proposals is being published today by the Ministry of Justice.

The summary of responses to the proposals for improving the process of death certification in England and Wales has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Debt Relief

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): On 18 May over 1,000 people gathered in Birmingham to mark the 10th anniversary of the formation of a human chain by over 70,000 people to demand an end to the debts of the world's poorest countries. Since that day 10 years ago, we have made great progress in providing debt relief to the poorest nations. Debt relief has played an important role in helping these countries tackle poverty and progress towards the millennium development goals.

The enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) was launched in 1999 to provide faster, deeper and broader debt relief and to make the poverty reduction strategies of poor countries central to HIPC. At Gleneagles, in 2005, we used our G8 presidency to go further and secure the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Excellent progress has been made under these initiatives and together they have so far provided over US$100 billion (£51 billion) worth of debt relief allowing the poorest countries to invest vital resources in health, education and infrastructure. In 2005, the Paris club agreed its largest ever African debt relief deal with Nigeria.

Since the last statement in January 2007 there has been further progress on debt relief for poor countries. Sao Tome & Principe and the Gambia are the most recent countries to complete the HIPC process and have most of their debt cancelled, bringing the total to 23 countries. These countries have received 100 per cent. cancellation of their multilateral debts owed to the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the MDRI. A further 10 countries are receiving interim relief, including Afghanistan and the Central African Republic, who entered HIPC during 2007, and Liberia who entered at the start of 2008. Another eight countries remain eligible for the debt relief provided under these international initiatives. The UK continues to exceed its HIPC commitments, providing 100 per cent. bilateral debt relief and holding in trust any payments received from HIPC countries yet to enter the initiative.

There are many good examples of the use countries are making of their debt relief savings. Burundi is using the extra US$75 million HIPC relief has provided towards the abolition of primary school fees and the building of 1,100 primary school classrooms. Nicaragua is using its savings to increase investment by US$54.3 million in health and US$121 million in education between 2007 and 2008. It also used funds towards supporting the construction of social housing, water and sanitation and social programmes aimed at children and families affected by natural disasters. Sierra Leone is using US$33 million freed up by the MDRI in 2008 to fund an emergency electricity generation programme which will double electricity supplies.

We remain committed to the full financing and implementation of the HIPC and MDRI initiatives. Our annual MDRI contributions to the World Bank and AfDB for 2007 and 2008 have amounted to £71 million. Since January 2007, we have provided £30.7 million to the HIPC trust fund towards debt cancellation costs for a number of HIPC countries including Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and most recently the Gambia.

Under the Commonwealth Debt Initiative (CDI) we provided a further £5 million of debt relief for Jamaica in 2007-08 bringing the total we have written off under this initiative since 1998 to £51 million.

Countries with arrears to the international financial institutions must clear them before they can enter HIPC and receive debt relief. Last year, we contributed £1.3 million to help clear arrears owed to the AfDB by the Central African Republic and £500,000 to help clear the arrears owed by Comoros to the AfDB. More recently, the UK has contributed £20 million to help with the clearance of Liberia's arrears at the AfDB and IMF.

We continue to believe that many poor countries, not just HIPCs, require additional support with their debt payments in order to achieve the MDGs. Under the UK MDRI we provide multilateral debt relief to poor countries not covered by HIPC that can use the savings for poverty reduction. We have recently changed the UK MDRI eligibility criteria to provide a clearer focus on good public financial management. This enables more of the poorest countries to benefit from debt relief.

Under the revised criteria, five new countries qualify to receive UK MDRI, in addition to the eight that are currently receiving support.

The UK has also been at the forefront of international initiatives to promote sustainable lending and borrowing. We played a key role in discussions of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Export Credit Group in January 2008 to agree a set of principles and guidelines that promote sustainable lending to all low income countries. The UK continues work to improve the capacity of poor countries to manage their debt and to support the development of policy frameworks that promote sustainable lending and borrowing.

The benefits of debt relief can be reduced by the actions of so-called "vulture funds". We have made concerted efforts to tackle this problem and secured international agreement on the need for action. To reduce the risk of debts falling into the hands of vulture funds we have been working with the World Bank to help poor countries buy back their commercial debts at a deep discount through the Debt Reduction Facility (DRF). Last year we provided £1.8 million to assist with Nicaragua's US$1.3 billion commercial debt buy-back operation. This operation represented the elimination of over two thirds of all reported court judgements against completion point HIPCs. Last May, the UK called for assistance from the DRF to be available earlier for HIPC countries, a position supported in February by G7 Finance Ministers, and agreed last month by the World Bank board. We have recently announced our commitment of up to £10 million for future DRF country operations to help tackle the threat of vulture funds. In addition, with strong UK support, the board of the African Development Bank has agreed to promote the establishment of an independent legal support facility to advise countries on how best to tackle vulture fund activity.

JUSTICE

Statutory Duty to Report Deaths to Coroner Modernisation and Consolidation of Cremation Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Today I am publishing two papers which summarise the responses to the consultation papers "Statutory Duty for Doctors and other Public Service Personnel to Report Deaths to the Coroner" and "Cremation Regulations: Consolidation and Modernisation".

A statutory duty to report deaths to coroners, to be introduced through the Coroners and Death Certification Bill, will be placed on registered medical practitioners only, although it will not prevent anyone else from being able to report a death, including family members if they have concerns. The Bill will give the Lord Chancellor the power, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Health, to make regulations which set out the circumstances in which deaths must be referred to the coroner.

The response paper indicates what we are doing ahead of legislation to take this policy forward. We will work across Government and with those who work in the coroners service to produce national guidance for England and Wales to clarify which deaths should be reported to the coroner. This national guidance will form the basis of the list of reportable deaths, and will be framed in secondary legislation and associated guidance under the Coroners and Death Certification Bill when it is implemented.

The Cremation Regulations 1930 have been amended on a number of occasions and are now seen as old-fashioned and confusing. It is intended they will be modernised and consolidated. There will also be two major policy changes. First, bereaved families will have the right to inspect the medical forms before the cremation takes place. This is an important Shipman-related reform. The families of Shipman's victims believed that if they had had seen the cremation forms Shipman had completed about their relatives, they would have recognised that the information was wrong and Shipman would have been exposed much sooner. The Government believe that this is likely to have been the case, Secondly, the regulation on the handling of contagious diseases will be replaced by a simpler procedure permitting the rapid throughput of cases. In the light of the responses we have received, we intend to introduce the new regulations together with accompanying guidance for stakeholders before the end of the year.

The new statutory duty and the changes to the cremation regulations complement the Government's proposals for improving the process of death certification. A summary of responses to the public consultation on these important reforms is being published today by the Department of Health.

Copies of both summary of responses have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Youth Justice Agency (Corporate Plan 2008-11 and Business Plan 2008-09)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have placed copies of the Youth Justice Agency's Corporate Plan for 2008-11 and Business Plan for 2008-09 in the Libraries of both Houses.

The business plan contains 14 key performance targets I have set for the agency for 2008-09. These are:

1. Some 95 per cent. of all children subject to a Juvenile Justice Centre Order will have are integration plan.

2. Achieve an 85 per cent. compliance rate within the statutory timeframe for all children who are subject to a community disposal supervised by the agency.

3. Achieve an increase in public confidence in how the agency deals with young people accused of crime from 41 per cent. to at least 45 per cent. as measured by the Northern Ireland omnibus survey.

4. Some 85 per cent. of youth conference reports to be returned to court within statutory timescales.

5. At least 80 per cent. of referrals to result in a youth conference and of those, at least 70 per cent. of young offenders to be satisfied with the outcome.

6. Maintain a victim attendance rate of at least 60 per cent. for youth conferences and of those, at least 75 per cent. of victims to be satisfied with the outcome.

7. Following the introduction of a common risk assessment system, all young people referred to the agency under a court order to have an assessment of risk and strengths completed within four weeks of the commencement of the order.

8. All new admissions to custody to have a risk assessment conducted within 24 hours.

9. No escapes from the Juvenile Justice Centre.

10. At least 90 per cent. of young people remanded by the courts to have a bail assessment commenced within five working days.

11. Reduce the levels of physical restraint by 5 per cent. compared with 2007.

12. Maintain expenditure within approved budgetary limits.

13. Publish and lay the agency's audited 2007-08 annual report and accounts before Parliament prior to its summer recess.

14. At least 75 per cent. of staff to confirm that their learning and development needs are being met.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

DNA Profiles Disk Inquiry

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I am today publishing a report from Peter Lewis, the Chief Executive of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), of his inquiry into the CPS handling of a disk containing 2,159 Dutch DNA serious crime scene profiles that had been sent to the CPS by the Dutch authorities in January 2007.

Mr. Lewis's inquiry comprised three key strands, which have established:

> The series of events beginning in May 2005 leading up to the provision to the CPS of the Dutch DNA disk in January 2007. This identified the nature of the arrangements made between the UK and Dutch authorities for the exchange of DNA profiles for comparison with their respective national databases—referred to as "Operation Thread"—and how these arrangements were carried out.
>
> The series of events and the actions of CPS personnel between receipt of the Dutch DNA disk in January 2007 and passing it on to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) in January 2008. This included consideration as to whether action of any kind should be taken against any CPS employee.
>
> The progress made since January 2008: to pursue the analysis of the Dutch DNA profiles; to exchange information arising from this with the Dutch authorities; and to identify, trace and prosecute those suspected of criminal offences both in the UK and in the Netherlands.

The Solicitor-General and I are very grateful to Peter Lewis for his thorough inquiry and for this comprehensive report. On the basis of this, we are in no doubt that there is potentially immense value in these exchanges of data and in the investment the UK Government have made in establishing a DNA database. The exchange of information may lead to the prosecution of criminals who would not otherwise be brought to justice.

However, the report reveals significant shortcomings in the way in which this process was planned and implemented. The report sets out that at no time had it been agreed that the Dutch DNA disk should be sent to the CPS, and that it should rather have been sent to the UK central authority. But there was a highly regrettable delay to the process while the disk was in the possession of the CPS.

The report identifies actions taken by the CPS to address internal performance issues. It also makes a number of recommendations for managing the mutual exchange of DNA data more effectively in the future.

These are:

Any bilateral discussions for the exchange of DNA data between the UK and foreign jurisdictions should include representatives from the CPS and the equivalent prosecuting authority from that foreign jurisdiction.

Such discussions should result in the production of a written agreement or protocol, and Ministers should be informed before the mutual exchange arrangements are implemented.

Any such agreement or protocol should outline the key steps to be taken, attribute responsibility for each step, preferably to a named individual, identify a senior point of contact in each organisation and set an agreed timescale for completion of each stage of the process, and establish a mechanism for the recorded agreement of any revisions to that timescale where necessary.

Every such agreement or protocol should comply with the pre-existing legal and procedural requirements of the jurisdictions/states involved, including any data protection regimes.

Plans for addressing any real or perceived public protection issues that may arise from the results of the DNA comparisons should be in place prior to implementation of any mutual exchange arrangements.

An agreed media handling plan should be in place prior to implementation of any mutual exchange arrangements.

These recommendations have been accepted and the National Policing Improvement Agency will lead on ensuring that they are followed. In addition, the UK agreed to the EU Council decision on PRUM in June 2007 which will provide member states' law enforcement authorities with access to DNA and fingerprint data on a hit or no hit basis, and direct access to vehicle registration. This will allow for much quicker and improved tools to share data for the detection, investigation and prevention of serious crime whilst maintaining appropriate data protection safeguards. It is due to be implemented three years from adoption by the European Union Council of Ministers, which is expected shortly.

The report indicates that action has been taken since January 2008 to analyse the Dutch data and compare it to the UK DNA database. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has made a commitment that Ministers will report to Parliament once the outcome of the police investigation following liaison with the Dutch authorities is complete.

Copies of the report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses."

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 22 May 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Dissolved Companies (Restoration)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): When part 31 of the Companies Act 2006 is commenced it will replace the provisions of the Companies Acts 1985 and 1989—and the equivalent Northern Ireland legislation—on restoration of dissolved companies to the register. The 2006 Act does not restate the bar, contained in the current legislation, on restoration of companies which were dissolved before 16 November 1969 (11 March 1971 in Northern Ireland). This bar could be retained using separate powers under the 2006 Act. However, the Government do not propose to retain the bar.

The current bar means that some ex-employees or their estates are unable to press claims for compensation in respect of personal injury or fatal accident, either against the employing company, its insurers or the financial services compensation scheme, simply because the company was dissolved prior to the cut-off date. Removing the bar, as the Government propose, may therefore enable such ex-employees or their estates to receive compensation which they are currently unable to obtain. This may be relevant in particular to sufferers of so-called long-tail diseases.

The relevant provisions of part 31 of the 2006 Act will be commenced with effect from 1 October 2009. However, the Government take the view that, as it is proposed to remove the bar, it would be desirable to do so before then. The Government therefore propose to repeal the current bar with effect from 1 October 2008, as part of the next scheduled tranche of provisions to implement the 2006 Act. This repeal would therefore be done separately from the commencement of part 31 of the 2006 Act.

The Government are inviting comments on this approach by 4 July 2008, and publishing a draft commencement order for this purpose.

Temporary Agency Workers: Joint Declaration by Government, CBI and TUC

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Government are pleased to be able to inform Parliament that the CBI and the TUC have reached an agreement on the way forward regarding equal treatment of agency workers. A copy of the joint declaration they agreed on 20 May 2008, with Government support, has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government consider that this declaration provides the basis for the introduction of measures to promote fairer treatment for agency workers while retaining the important flexibility that agency work can offer both employers and workers. One of the key issues on which agreement has been reached between the social partners is that there should be equal treatment of agency workers after 12 weeks in a given job.

The Government hope this declaration can pave the way to agreement in the EU on the draft agency workers directive, and will now work with its European partners to that end, in order to bring the agreement between the CBI and the TUC into legal effect in the United Kingdom. The Government hope that EU agreement will be obtained in time for the necessary UK implementing legislation to be introduced in the next Parliamentary session.

UK Civil Plutonium and Uranium Stocks

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): The Department will be placing the figures for the United Kingdom's stocks of civil plutonium and uranium as at 31 December 2007 in the Libraries of both Houses. In accordance with our commitment under the "Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium", we will also send the figures to the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who will circulate them to member states. The figures will be available on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the IAEA websites.

The figures show that stocks of unirradiated plutonium in the UK totalled 108 tonnes at the end of 2007. Changes from the corresponding figures for 2006 are a consequence of continuing reprocessing operations—for example, as reflected in the increased quantity of unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants. The main reason for the change in high enriched uranium (HEU) stocks was the transfer to waste of recharacterised historic operational residues. The increase in the civil depleted, natural and low enriched uranium figures reflects the increased stocks at the UK enrichment plant.

The stocks of civil plutonium and uranium in future years will be published on the HSE and IAEA websites without a written statement.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Admissions and Parental Preferences for 2008

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): The Information as to Provision of Education (England) Regulations 2008, which were laid before Parliament on 15 January, committed the Government for the first time to publishing local authority by local authority data on how many families received an offer of a place at one of their preferred schools. On Monday 3 March 2008, around 570,000 families were awaiting their offers of secondary school places, and on 11 March I published provisional preference data which included unverified returns from 11 local authorities: Northumberland;

Sefton; Wirral; Leicestershire; Suffolk; Oxfordshire; Slough; Surrey; Windsor and Maidenhead; Dorset; and Torbay.

Today I am pleased to announce the publication of final secondary preference data based on returns made and verified by all 149 local authorities. These figures represent no overall change in the national figures from the previously published data, and show that 82 per cent. of families received an offer of a place at their highest preference school; and 94 per cent. of families received an offer of a place at one of their top three preferred schools.

I am placing copies of the secondary applications and offers 2008 data in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (Supplement to 2008 Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The supplement to the 2008 report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) making recommendations on the pay of service medical and dental officers has been published today. Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the review body for their report.

The AFPRB has recommended an increase in basic military salary of 2.2 per cent. for all Defence Medical Services medical and dental officers—and all reserve equivalents—except general medical practitioners and general dental practitioners, for whom they recommended a 3.7 per cent. increase. The AFPRB has also recommended an increase in X-Factor from 13 to 14 per cent. and a restructuring to increase the amount of X-Factor paid to officers at Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel and Brigadier—and equivalent—ranks. In addition, the AFPRB has recommended a 2.2 per cent. increase in the values of national clinical excellence awards and distinction awards, and trainer pay, plus the introduction of general medical practitioner associate trainer pay, on a date to be determined.

Provision has been made to accommodate the additional cost to the defence budget.

I am pleased to confirm that the AFPRB's recommendations are to be accepted in full, with implementation effective from 1 April 2008.

First World War (90th Anniversary)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence is planning a commemorative event to mark this year's 90th anniversary of the First World War Armistice. It has become clear in recent months that, while 90th anniversaries are not something that we normally commemorate nationally, there is a widely held desire to mark this important milestone.

We are not yet in a position to provide details of our plans but we expect the event to be centred around a service and wreath laying at the Cenotaph on Tuesday 11 November when distinguished attendees may include one or more of the remaining UK veterans of the Great War if they are able to attend. Further details will be announced in the coming months.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

UK Intellectual Property Office (Performance Targets)

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Ian Pearson): My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for intellectual property and quality has tasked the UK Intellectual Property Office with managing and shaping an Intellectual Property system which encourages innovation and creativity, balances the needs of rights holders and the public, promotes strong and competitive markets and provides a firm foundation for the knowledge-based economy.

The UK Intellectual Property Office has been set a broad range of targets; for 2008-09 based on a balanced scorecard approach. These targets are:

Customers and Stakeholders

To receive an overall "good" or "satisfactory" rating in at least 80 per cent. of responses in customer surveys.

Issue 90 per cent. of patent search reports within four months of request.

To issue a substantive response to an allowable request for accelerated patent examination within two months of receipt in 90 per cent. of searched applications.

To register 90 per cent. of processed trade mark applications, to which no substantive objections have been raised or oppositions filed, within seven months of application.

To register 95 per cent. of all correctly filed design applications within two months.

Meet 80 per cent. of agreed milestones in development of policy initiatives.

By 31 March 2009, 66 per cent. of business advisers (UKTI export and Business Link advisers and their devolved counterparts) will have received training from the UK-IPO in advising businesses on intellectual property (IP) management. (Contributing to the Science and Innovation Strategy goal for all business advisors [UKTI export and Business Link advisers and their devolved counterparts] to have received this training by summer 2009).

By 31 March 2009, to have a defined role for UK-IPO in relation to IP crime, working in partnership with other agencies, implementing the commitments in the Government's Creative Economy Strategy, and to have developed the resources, expertise and authorisations to fulfil that role credibly and effectively.

Refine copyright policy and improve its relevance in the digital age and to make visibly perceived progress in the eyes of stakeholders through the chain from producers to end users.

Finance and Resources

Achieve the target of 4 per cent. on return on capital employed.

The Office will deliver additional direct benefits to customers and stakeholders of £2.5 million through a combination of the implementation of new or expanded services, and reductions in office statutory fees.

Internal Processes

Make the correct decision on registerability in at least 98.5 per cent. of trade mark applications.

Give good customer service in processing patent applications in 95 per cent. of quality assured cases.

Promote a healthy workforce where people are fit and able to come to work 97 per cent. of the time.

Complete, sign off and return 95 per cent. of performance management forms to personnel by 31 May 2008.

To achieve 99 per cent. of the agreed monthly service levels for key IT systems.

Reduce consumption of water, energy, travel and waste by 2 per cent.

Change and Development

Develop a highly trained workforce where 90 per cent. of people who have identified a legitimate training need will have received their training.

To achieve 80 per cent. or more of agreed milestones for key business-change projects within the reporting year.

By March 2009, UK-IPO Together (UK-IPO's core management values) will be embedded in the office culture and 80 per cent. of staff know and. understand the management values.

The document has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Claims Management Regulation (Annual Review and Impact Study)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I am announcing that the Claims Management Regulation Annual Review and an Impact Study, a report to the Ministry of Justice, are being published today.

The Annual Review sets out the progress made on claims management in the first year of regulation. The Annual Review sets out the work undertaken this year in regulating the claims management sector and the challenges and priorities for the coming year.

The Department commissioned Mark Boleat, the first head of Claims Management Regulation, to assess the impact of regulation on the claims management market and produce a report. The Impact Study provides a comprehensive assessment of the claims management market and the impact of regulation on the industry. It concludes that the regulatory regime for claims management services is considered to have had a significant effect in reducing malpractice in its first full year of operation, one of the key objectives of regulation. Successes include dealing with cold calling in person, unauthorised advertising in hospitals and the misleading use of the term, "no win, no fee" which have all largely been eliminated

Copies of the Claims Management Regulation Annual Review and the Impact Study have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the Annual Review are also available on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporateinformation.htm. Copies of the Impact Study are also available on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk//publications/policyreports.htm

TRANSPORT

South Central Franchise and Accreditation Process

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): I am today announcing the publication of the consultation document for the South Central franchise. The formal accreditation process for bidders also starts today.

Our overall aim for the new franchise is to ensure that continued improvement is maintained, while renewed emphasis is placed on improving the overall quality of the service offered to passengers.

The new franchise will begin operation on Sunday 20 September 2009 and will cover the operations of Southern and Gatwick Express and the Tonbridge to Redhill route operated by Southeastern. The franchise will last for five years and ten months, with the final year dependent on performance. It will be possible for the franchise to be extended by up to two years, at the Department for Transport's discretion. The franchise is shorter than we would usually propose reflecting the major changes envisaged around 2015 when the Thameslink programme is complete. This approach gives the Government maximum flexibility when implementing the final Thameslink pattern of services.

We have previously announced significant changes to services on the Brighton main line. These changes, which occur in December, will see some peak period Gatwick Express services extended to Brighton, increasing carrying capacity to and from the South Coast. The new franchise will start with this timetable as its base.

The consultation document sets out the main challenges that the new franchise will face and highlights the key requirements that the Department proposes to include within the invitation to tender. The document includes details of likely service alterations to facilitate the delivery of a number of major infrastructure enhancements including the East London line extension, Thameslink programme and 10 car suburban rail network. It also sets out proposals to increase off peak services levels and improve security, access to stations, information provision and overall service quality.

Responses to the consultation will inform the development of the invitation to tender (ITT) that bidders for each franchise will be asked to bid against. We expect to publish the ITT later this year and will award the new franchise early next summer.

Last year's White Paper set out a challenging programme to improve our rail network, by increasing carrying capacity, improving reliability, enhancing stations, simplifying ticketing and improving service quality. This outline franchise specification builds on this. Over the coming weeks the Department will be having extensive discussions with local interested stakeholders.

The consultation will run until the 14 August 2008. Copies of the consultation documents have been placed in the House Library, are available on the Department for Transport website at: www.dft.gov.uk and will be sent to key stakeholders.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Older People (Engagement with Government)

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien): I have asked John Elbourne, former chief executive, Prudential Assurance UK Operations to examine the current arrangements for the engagement of older people and the ability of those arrangements to inform policy and actions of Government at all levels. Specifically, this will include examining Better Government for Older People's: aims, structure and relationships; past achievements, lessons learned and best practice; lines of accountability, governance and reporting; and management arrangements, legal status and funding. He will explore options for improvement of engagement with older people in respect of the new Government performance framework and in relation to the roles of other organisations. He will then make recommendations to ensure that the findings of the review take full account of the expectations of older people, best support the independence and wellbeing of people in later life and ensure an effective and efficient process to serve these needs.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 2 June 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Non-EEA Pupils (Academies)

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners (Lord Adonis) has made the following written ministerial statement:

> "1. I intend to introduce charges for education at academies for non-EEA pupils in specific circumstances, decided on a case-by-case basis.
>
> 2. Colston's Girls' school is a private school that will convert to academy status in September 2008. It currently has two non-EEA pupils on its educational roll. They are in year 11 and had expected to complete their education at the school to Year 13. Under the current immigration regime, they will be in breach of the requirements of their visas if they attend the new academy, because it is not an "independent fee-paying school outside the maintained sector".
>
> 3. The Minister of State for Borders and Immigration has confirmed that he will make an exception to the immigration rules for these pupils, allowing them to complete their education as planned. This exception has been granted on the basis of these pupils not accessing education at UK taxpayers' expense. In order to satisfy this requirement, I am introducing charging for education into the academy's funding agreement. This will enable the academy to charge these pupils for their education and ensure that they do not benefit from public funds.
>
> 4. The ability to charge for education will only be introduced into the funding agreement of this academy. Should an equivalent situation arise with any future academy, I shall consider requests for similar treatment on a case-by-case basis. UK and EEA pupils will not be charged for their education at any academy."

Young People (Alcohol)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I am today laying before Parliament, with the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health, the youth alcohol action plan, which fulfils a commitment made in the children's plan last year. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The youth alcohol action plan sets out the Government's plans to tackle young people's drinking in five ways: working with the police to improve how we deal with young people drinking in public places; working with the alcohol industry to develop tougher standards in relation to young people; developing a national consensus on young people and alcohol; supporting parents through better information about alcohol consumption by young people; and supporting young people to make sensible decisions.

Our Departments have called for views on these proposals. The relevant materials are available from the DCSF website at: www.dcs[illegible]gov.uk/consultations/.

This exercise will run until 30 June 2008.

DEFENCE

Training

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to announce the award of a contract to Ascent valued at £635 million, a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and VT Group, for the UK military flying training system, which is designed to meet the long-term flying training needs of the UK armed forces.

Ascent has been appointed as training system partner to work with the Ministry of Defence to incrementally procure and deliver flying training capability, the first part of which is a ground-based training environment, funded under a private finance initiative, for the advanced jet trainer, Hawk 128. Our intention is to add other elements of flying training in due course so that all flying training is brought within a single training architecture, making UK military flying training system the first step in a 25-year programme.

This contract signals our intention to overhaul our training schemes and bring them together into one modern and cohesive programme. The focus, as it always has been, will be on delivering first-class training to produce high-calibre, well-trained personnel for Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Army aircrew. We will continue to ensure that our flying personnel are equipped to meet contemporary and future threats, but the new contract should allow us to reduce overall costs and also improve training throughput to frontline units by improving the overall training times for aircrew and reducing delays between flying courses.

This is a significant milestone for UKMFTS, which will enable us to exploit the strengths of the Ministry of Defence, the armed forces and the private sector to deliver outstanding military capability.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Exceptional Assistance Measures for Victims of Terrorist Incidents Overseas

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn): Since 2004, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has offered specific consular assistance for British victims of terrorist incidents and their families. This assistance, known as the Aftercare Plan, recognised that in many cases travel insurance explicitly excluded acts of terrorism from cover. The plan provided support to victims of terrorist attacks overseas and family members in the exceptional circumstances where travel insurance was not available to meet support and repatriation costs.

Acts of terrorism overseas, as opposed to other crimes, justify this level of support because we consider terrorism to be acts taken against society as a whole, in which individuals are usually random victims. Although the same might be said of other serious, violent incidents, these measures are distinctly for incidents we deem to be acts of terrorism.

The Aftercare Plan, now more than three years old, has been revised to reflect the FCO's experience with victims and families, and to reflect that travel insurance is now more likely to cover terrorism. Our new policy is called "Exceptional Assistance Measures for Terrorist Incidents Overseas", in order to more accurately describe the purpose of this financial assistance and our role in providing support to victims and their families.

As was the case with the Aftercare Plan, this provision is not a form of compensation. It is a means by which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can recompense for actual expenditure, following a terrorist incident overseas, where there is no other available source of financial assistance. The measures aim to alleviate the immediate needs of those affected.

FCO Ministers will only consider activating the assistance measures for those British nationals who have taken all appropriate steps to provide for themselves in case of an emergency abroad, but find themselves without resources as the result of a terrorist incident.

Key elements are:

i) The measures will only be activated as a last resort, where financial assistance is not made available through other means, that is, from the Government of the country where the incident took place, insurance providers or other agencies and organisations;

ii) Assistance, under these measures, will not be made available to those who have travelled without travel insurance, or to a country or region for which the FCO had advised against all travel;

iii) The measures do not cover medical care in the UK or long-term care in relation to conditions relating to the effects of the terrorist incident;

iv) Ministers retain a residual discretion to activate the measures for all British nationals who have become victims of a particular terrorist incident in such very exceptional circumstances.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Ian Pearson): I am pleased to confirm the agenda items for which DIUS is responsible, at the forthcoming EU Competitiveness Council on 29-30 May in Brussels. The research session of the Council will be held on 30 May and will be chaired by Mojca Kucler Dolinar, Slovenian Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology. A ministerial dinner will also be taking place on 29 May to discuss the location of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

I will be attending both the ministerial dinner and the EU Competitiveness Council. There are five substantive agenda items:

Political agreement on a Council regulation establishing a joint undertaking to implement a joint technology initiative (JTI) for fuel cells and hydrogen. The UK supports the objectives of this JTI which we see as important for engaging UK businesses in European research and would like to see it launched this year.

Possible adoption of a Council resolution on a Commission recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and code of practice for universities and other public research organisations ("IP Charter Initiative"). The UK supports this resolution.

Possible adoption of Council conclusions on "European Research Infrastructures and their Regional Dimension".

Possible adoption of Council conclusions on "Family-friendly Scientific Careers: Towards an Integrated Model".

Possible adoption of Council conclusions on the launch of the Ljubljana process, towards full realisation of the European research area (ERA).

There will be four further items taken under any other business:

i) Communication from the Commission on "Better Careers and More Mobility: a European Partnership for Researchers" (Information from the Commission).

ii) Outcome of the informal meeting of Competitiveness Ministers in Brdo, Slovenia, on 15-16 April 2008 (Information from the presidency)

iii) Proposal for a research and development programme aimed at enhancing the quality of life for older people through the use of new information and communication technologies (ICT) (AAL).

Proposal for a decision on the participation of the Community in a research and development programme aimed at supporting research and development performing SMEs (Eurostars joint programme).

(Information from the presidency on the state of play).

iv) Commission recommendation on a code of conduct for responsible nanosciences and nanotechnologies research (presentation by the Commission).

At the ministerial dinner the presidency is aiming to reach common agreement on the location of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (BIT) administrative headquarters.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AIDS Strategy

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a copy of DFID's AIDS strategy 2008-2015.

This strategy sets out the UK's priorities for "Achieving Universal Access—Halting and Reversing the Spread of HIV in the Developing World". The seven year strategy, which replaces "Taking Action", the UK's successful strategy for HIV and AIDS from 2005-08, is the product of an extensive consultation process, with extensive inputs from those working on HIV and AIDS in developing countries—in the UK and internationally—including other funding agencies and the United Nations, including UNAIDS.

Building on the success of "Taking Action"—galvanised international support, increased funding, improved results—this strategy focuses on addressing the latest challenges. If we are to achieve universal access and to halt and reverse the spread of AIDS, the evidence demonstrates we require a long-term approach, across a range of health systems and services. Our new commitment to spend £6 billion on health systems and services up to 2015 demonstrates the UK's determination to remain at the forefront of global efforts to achieve universal access. This is in addition to the unprecedented long-term commitment by the UK, announced in September 2007, to provide £1 billion to the global fund between 2008 and 2015.

This strategy commits £200 million over three years to expand social protection programmes, which will help ensure that more orphans and vulnerable children have access to better child nutrition, health and education. The UK remains committed to meeting the needs of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). "Taking Action" helped increase global funding for OVCs. But we now need to ensure the needs of OVCs are systematically met. Evidence shows that this can best be achieved through integrating OVCs' needs into health, education and social protection plans. We will regularly review this approach by publishing a report following the biennial global partners forum on children affected by HIV and AIDS, to ensure that the approach outlined here supports the most effective ways of meeting the needs and rights of OVCs.

The strategy outlines the key role the UK Government can play in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. Within this comprehensive package, the strategy sets out that more effort is needed on HIV prevention. To achieve this, action is required in three main areas:

> i) meeting the needs and protecting the rights of those most vulnerable to HIV;
>
> ii) supporting more effective and integrated service delivery; and
>
> iii) making the money work harder, through more effective partnerships.

DFID will work closely with overseas Governments and other agencies, particularly UNAIDS, World Bank, the EU and bilateral agencies, NGOs and civil society groups, including people living with HIV, to ensure progress towards universal access.

The strategy sets out key commitments that the UK will make as our contribution the global response:

> We will spend £6 billion on health to 2015. This will help maximise progress on AIDS through closer integration of AIDS, TB, malaria, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and maternal and child health services.
>
> In the health sector, we will work with others to intensify international efforts to increase to 80 per cent. by 2010 the percentage of HIV-infected pregnant women who receive anti-retroviral treatments (ARVs) to reduce the risk of mother to child transmission, both in low income and high prevalence countries.
>
> We will work with others to provide WHO recommended threshold of at least 2.3 doctors, nurses and midwives per 1000 people.
>
> We will work with others to intensify international efforts to halve unmet demand for family planning—including male and female condoms—by 2010, to achieve universal access to family planning by 2015.
>
> We will work with Governments and civil society in eight African countries to develop social protection policies and programmes that will provide effective and predictable support for the most vulnerable households, including those with children affected by AIDS.
>
> We will intensify efforts to increase the coverage of HIV and AIDS sendees for injecting drug users in countries where they are most affected.
>
> We will increase by at least 50 per cent. our funding for research and development of AIDS vaccines and microbicides over 2008-13, to help reduce the impact of the disease on women and girls.
>
> We will work with others to reduce drug prices and increase access to more affordable and sustainable treatment over the long term. This could yield efficiency savings of at least £50 million per annum—enough to cover the cost of anti-retrovirals for an additional one million people every year.
>
> We will ensure the global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria implements the Paris declaration for better co-ordination and use of resources.
>
> We will work with development partners, both within and outside the international health partnership (IHP), to ensure that sector-wide approaches to health strengthen the AIDS response and that targeted AIDS programmes also strengthen the wider health system.

Finally, the document outlines how DFID will monitor and measure the outputs of the new strategy and be accountable for achieving results.

I warmly commend this strategy to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest and support of DFID's programme to advance global action on AIDS.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Answer (Correction)

The Deputy Leader of the House of Commons (Helen Goodman): It has been brought to my attention that the reply I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mark Hoban), 14 May 2008, Official Report, columns 1586W was incorrect.

The correct answer should have been:

The pension contribution of hon. Members increased from 9 per cent. to 10 per cent. of salary in April 2004 for those opting for one fortieth pension accrual. It remained at 6 per cent. of salary for one fiftieth accrual. These pension contribution rates also applied to ministerial salaries.

As for many public sector pensions, the increases applied each April to pensions in payment under the parliamentary contributory pension fund, in excess of the guaranteed minimum pension, were linked to the increase in the retail prices index as at the previous September. These increases applied to pensions paid to former Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries.

The percentage increases for the last ten years were as follows:

Date	*Increase %*
April 1999	3.2
April 2000	1.1
April 2001	3.3
April 2002	1.7

Date	Increase %
April 2003	1.7
April 2004	2.8
April 2005	3.1
April 2006	2.7
April 2007	3.6
April 2008	3.9

The percentage increases to ministerial salaries for the last five years are given below:

Date	Increase %
April 1999	3.2
April 2000	1.1
April 2001	3.3
April 2002	1.7
April 2003	1.7
April 2004	2.8
April 2005	3.1
April 2006	2.7
April 2007	3.6
April 2008	3.9

There was no difference in the percentage salary increases between Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State or Parliamentary Under-Secretaries.

Further information on current and historical rates of ministerial salaries is available in the Libraries of the House.

All Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries are entitled to claim the same parliamentary allowances as any other hon. Members. Previously, Ministers were paid the London supplement as well as claiming additional costs allowance (ACA) for their constituency home unless they were provided with an official residence. This arrangement ceased on 1 April 2005 and now Ministers can opt to receive London supplement instead of eligibility for ACA.

Business Questions (Correction)

The Deputy Leader of the House of Commons (Helen Goodman): During business questions on Thursday 15 May 2008, The Leader of the House said:

> "My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has tabled a written ministerial statement on the report by Imelda Walsh, who conducted her review at the Government's request. I thank her warmly for the work that she has done, and for her report." (*Official Report*, 15 May 2008, Vol. 475, Col. 1549).

Unfortunately, this was incorrect insofar as it states that a written ministerial statement was issued. In fact, the Prime Minister announced in an oral statement on Wednesday 14 May that the Government would take forward the recommendations of the Walsh review to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of older children. The Walsh review was published on Thursday 15 May.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Joint Birth Registration: Recording Responsibility

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Family and I are today announcing publication of a White Paper, "Joint Birth Registration: Recording Responsibility", outlining the Government's proposals to require unmarried parents to register the birth of a child jointly and to make birth registration a more accessible process.

In June 2007 the Government published a Green Paper seeking views on their proposals on making joint birth registration a legal requirement. There was a good level of response and today we are publishing a White Paper which sets out firm proposals which have been informed by the Green Paper consultation and further work on this issue. Copies of the White Paper are available from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Currently there are up to 45,000 children born in England and Wales each year who do not have both parents identified on their birth certificate. It is the Government's ambition to significantly decrease the number of sole registrations in England and Wales.

Registering a birth is a significant act. It is one of the first milestones in the life of a child which can shape its future identity. It is also a key moment for parents, when a mother and father publicly acknowledge that they have responsibility for their child—not only as its legal representative, but also in the expectation that together they will safeguard and promote their child's health, development and welfare.

"Joint Birth Registration: Recording Responsibility" sets out changes to the law in England and Wales to make joint birth registration a legal requirement for all unmarried parents unless this is decided by the registrar to be impossible, impracticable or unreasonable. Alongside this the White Paper sets out a series of non-legislative measures to promote and support joint birth registration and changes to give mothers a right to insist that the father acknowledges his responsibilities to his child by registering on the birth certificate. Equally, it gives a father a new right to insist that he is registered.

Last year's Green Paper acknowledged that there will be situations where a joint registration is not a possible or desirable outcome and so set out a list of specific exemptions where a sole registration would be permitted. Following response from stakeholders, we have broadened these exemptions to cover situations where the registrar believes a joint registration would be impossible, impracticable, or unreasonable. Mothers will not be required to name fathers, and fathers will not be permitted to be recorded if a joint registration would compromise the safety and well-being of the child or mother. In developing legislation the Government will work further with stakeholders to ensure the protection of vulnerable women and children.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 3 June 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Set-up Costs

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): Further to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 381W, we said that the costs incurred in setting up the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform were £218,063. These costs included stationery, rebranding and IT changes, including revised email addresses, new signage, web-based changes, new logo and print costs and the anticipated cost of branding guidelines. This figure is also quoted in my letter of 26 November 2007, to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer). A copy of this letter was placed in the Libraries of the House.

Those costs included an estimate of £24,000 for the costs of producing branding guidelines, which had not been completed at the time. These branding guidelines have subsequently been completed: the final costs were £20,000. Therefore, the final total costs are £214,063.

My noble Friend Baroness Vadera, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness is today answering a written question from Lord Barnett which updates the original costs as above.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Products Committee

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): My noble Friend Lord Rooker has received the annual report of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees for 2007, which has been published today.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

I am glad to acknowledge the valuable work done by the distinguished members of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees and thank them for the time and effort dedicated in the public interest to this important work.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council (26-27 May)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence and the Minister with responsibility for veterans, my hon. Friend the Member for Halton (Derek Twigg), the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas), Kim Darroch (UK Permanent Representative to the EU) and I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs

Preparation of the European Council on 19-20 June 2008

Foreign Ministers considered the annotated draft agenda for the European Council meeting to be held in Brussels on 19 and 20 June. The Government approve of the Presidency's priorities for discussion, which will include: policy implications of high food and fuel prices; implementation of the millennium development goals; measures in the areas of freedom, security and justice; economic, social and environmental issues; a progress report on ratification of the Lisbon treaty. The Council will also discuss the situation in the Western Balkans, and external relations (including enhancement of the Barcelona process ("EuroMed") and the eastern dimension of the European neighbourhood policy).

Ministers will carry out more detailed preparatory work for the European Council when they meet on 16 June.

Russia

Foreign Ministers approved the negotiating mandate for a successor to the current partnership and co-operation agreement with Russia, which the Government welcome as a positive step forward for EU-Russia relations.

External Relations

Western Balkans

The Council adopted conclusions that welcomed Serbian voters' strong support for pro-European parties at the 11 May elections; hoped that the new Government would engage constructively with the EU in advancing Serbia towards candidate status, by meeting the necessary conditions; and looked forward to the signature of Bosnia and Herzegovina's stabilisation and association agreement at the June GAERC.

I said that if a pro-European Government were formed in Serbia, we would clearly want to sustain our commitment to that country's European path. But we would also need to be clear about our expectations of that Government.

Somalia

The Government agreed Council conclusions expressing the EU's concern at the security situation in Somalia, in particular its impact on human rights and humanitarian relief efforts; calling upon all parties to refrain from violence and seek to resolve conflict through the political process; welcoming the Transitional Federal Government's moves towards reconciliation with its domestic and external opponents; supporting the work of the UN and the African Union mission to Somalia (AMISOM); and condemning instances of piracy off the Somali coast.

Zimbabwe

The Council adopted conclusions, which the Government support, which noted the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's decision to hold a second round of elections on 27 June; condemned the campaign of violence and intimidation against opposition supporters since the first round; called upon the Government of Zimbabwe to respect human rights and promote conditions conducive to free and fair elections, in keeping with international standards.

Middle East Peace Process

On Lebanon, the Council agreed conclusions welcoming the 21 May Doha agreement and the election of President Suleiman, as steps that would enable democratic institutions to resume functioning properly following a lengthy period of instability; commending the Arab League's role in brokering the Doha agreement; and deploring the recent violence in Beirut.

On the MEPP, Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the EU's commitment to the Annapolis process; expressed concern at Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; condemned the firing of rockets into Israel from Gaza; and called upon Israel to ease restrictions on movement and access in the West Bank.

The Government welcome these conclusions, and in particular Ministers' decision to expand the EU police training mission (EUPOL COPPS) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

WTO/PDA

Commissioner Mandelson updated Ministers on the Doha development agenda (DDA). The UK emphasised the strategic importance of a deal on the DDA, for the EU, the developing world and the global economy as a whole. We also called upon EU partners to support the Commission's efforts to negotiate a successful outcome for the EU.

Iraq

Sweden briefed Ministers on the international compact with Iraq (ICI) conference in Stockholm on 29 May, which the Council welcomed as a reflection of the EU's commitment to support Iraq. The Commission gave an update on its assistance to the Government of Iraq and Council conclusions set out details of further support and assistance that the EU will deliver.

I underlined the recent positive developments in the political and security situation, and called upon EU partners to use the Stockholm conference as an opportunity to set out how we proposed to assist the Government of Iraq to consolidate and build upon that progress.

Georgia

Foreign Ministers adopted conclusions that welcomed the peaceful conduct of the 21 May elections; called upon the Georgian authorities to address the remaining shortcomings identified by OSCE election observers; emphasised the need for dialogue between the Government and opposition; and reiterated the EU's serious concern at the recent events that have increased tension between Georgia and Russia.

I said that it was important for the EU to make clear its commitment to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

JOINT SESSION OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AND DEFENCE MINISTERS

Conclusions were agreed under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) on current operations and missions, capability development including the European Defence Agency, and co-operation with strategic partners.

Afghanistan

In their conclusions, which the Government welcome, Foreign and Defence Ministers decided to increase substantially the contribution through the EU police mission, with the aim of doubling its size; underlined the need to strengthen further the fight against corruption and drugs, and introduce local self-government; and looked forward to the Paris donor conference on 12 June.

I emphasised the need for closer EU-NATO cooperation on the ground, and for the Paris conference on Afghanistan to deliver, along with a commitment from the Afghan Government to take responsibility for its own development, a commitment from the international community that it would support this by delivering assistance in support of the Afghan Government's national development strategy.

Children and Armed Conflict

The Presidency highlighted progress on this issue. In their conclusions Foreign and Defence Ministers welcomed a study by the European Centre for Development Policy Management which set out concrete proposals for future action, as well as a review of, and amendments to, the Council document "Checklist for the Integration of the Protection of Children affected by Armed Conflict into ESDP Operations", particularly emphasising the aim to further enhance its implementation on the ground.

DEFENCE MINISTERS

ESDP Operations

Foreign and Defence Ministers discussed the progress of the ESDP missions in Chad/Central African Republic (EUFOR Tchad/RCA) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA).

Capabilities

Defence Ministers welcomed progress made in formulating the capability development plan and discussed European military capabilities, focusing on the use of EU Battlegroups in crisis management operations.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence emphasised the continuing success of the Battlegroups initiative in helping the transformation of member states' armed forces towards modern expeditionary capabilities. He also welcomed the recent improvement in the use of the EU-NATO capability group.

European Defence Agency

High Representative Solana presented a report on EDA activities. Defence Ministers welcomed the EDA's achievements.

The EDA steering board also met in Defence Ministers' formation on 26 May. Ministers agreed to recommend that the November Council postpone the agreement of the three-year financial framework for one year. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence advertised the UK-France helicopter initiative that was announced at the recent UK/France bilateral summit, and called for member states' support.

DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS

Burma

Commissioner Michel briefed Development Ministers on his recent visit to Burma. The Council agreed conclusions supporting the UN's role in response to Cyclone Nargis; welcomed the decision of ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 19 May to establish a mechanism for delivering and distributing aid inside Burma; and noted the outcome of the international conference in Yangon on 25 May 2008 co-sponsored by the UN and ASEAN and the commitment of the Burmese regime to participate in the UN/ASEAN mechanism agreed at the conference.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for International Development, the hon. Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas) highlighted UK efforts to date and emphasised the need to build momentum on the back of the 25 May conference; to maintain pressure on the regime to deliver; to encourage influential ASEAN member states to do more; and for the EU to come good on pledges of assistance. He also noted that long-standing political concerns with the Burmese regime remained and underlay the problems faced.

Rights of the Child in External Action

Development Ministers agreed conclusions welcoming the Commission communication "A Special Place for Children in EU External Action"; and affirming the importance of a comprehensive and integrated human rights-based approach towards the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, encompassing all areas of EU external action.

Women and Armed Conflict

Development Ministers had an exchange of views based upon a study prepared by the Presidency, which called for a comprehensive EU approach to the issue and more specific cross-cutting EU action.

Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)

Ministers discussed the performance of the (GFATM) over dinner.

The EU as a global partner for development: speeding up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Commissioner Michel gave an assessment of the EU's performance against Overseas Development Aid (ODA) volumes and set out the Commission's views on how to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs. The Council adopted conclusions, which the Government welcome, strongly reaffirming their commitment to achieve a collective ODA target of 0.56 per cent. GNI by 2010 and 0.7 per cent. GNI by 2015, as set out in the May 2005 Council conclusions, the June 2005 European Council conclusions and the European consensus on development.

The conclusions also state that the EU will prepare an EU agenda for action on the MDGs for the June European Council. This agenda will identify specific milestones and actions on key areas that will help contribute to achieving the MDGs by 2015. The Government strongly support this approach.

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

Commissioner Mandelson gave Ministers an update on EPA negotiations. The Council agreed conclusions that confirmed the EU's commitment to further negotiations and implementation of the EPAs.

Rising food prices and food security in developing countries

Development Ministers held an informal discussion over lunch, attended by the directors of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for International Development, the hon. Member for Harrow, West (Mr Thomas) encouraged the FAO to make further efforts at internal reform, so as to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The chairman of Monitor—the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts—announced last week that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor has decided to authorise the following NHS acute and mental health trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 June:

North East London Mental Health NHS Trust;

United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust; and

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts to 99. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to apply for foundation status as soon as practicable. Monitor is now authorising trusts on a monthly basis, and further waves of NHS foundation trusts are set to follow.

NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): The Government launched on 29 May 2008 a consultation exercise on the National Health Service carbon reduction strategy.

The NHS is Europe's largest employer with 1.3 million people, or 5 per cent. of the United Kingdom workforce, and is often the largest single employer in each of the regions of England. Given its size, the NHS in England is responsible for nearly 3 per cent. of UK carbon dioxide emissions and 30 per cent. of public sector emissions.

In the ten years from 1990 to 2000, the NHS successfully reduced its building energy use by 20 per cent. As part of the Government's climate change programme 1998-99, some early targets on NHS carbon reduction from building energy use were set for NHS trusts to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency.

The NHS has already made good progress, but there is still much to be done. In the ten years from 1990 to 2000, the NHS successfully reduced its building energy use by 20 per cent.

The strategy recognises that the NHS has done much good work in increasing its sustainability, but also recognises that much more can be done.

The purpose of the strategy is to:

increase understanding about the NHS contribution to climate change and the immediate and long-term benefits to healthcare that can be gained from actively managing carbon emissions;

establish board level leadership on carbon reduction in the NHS; establish stretching, but achievable, measures for carbon reduction; describe proposed national, regional and local action to support carbon reduction;

give practical evidence-based and systematic advice on the means to improve the sustainability of NHS operations by evaluating and sharing good practice; and

provide a framework to monitor, evaluate and report progress, and ensure policy promotes a low carbon NHS.

The core of this strategy is action. It has highlighted the ten achievable, practical and sustainability-improving actions to win. The top ten actions are:

the use of high quality information to help predict different possible trajectories of NHS carbon emissions—an NHS carbon model—to measure progress towards objectives, identify milestones, and guide action;

a board-approved carbon management strategy for all NHS organisations by 2009;

a proposed extension of the energy fund to improve energy efficiency of the existing NHS estate;

all our new buildings to be low carbon by 2015 and meet our ambition of zero carbon by 2018;

a board approved sustainable travel plan for all NHS bodies by 2010;

a target for better waste management to be created and met;

sources of carbon emissions to be cut by improving procurement of goods, services and equipment;

the pricing of carbon at an appropriate level within the NHS in England;

the development and implementation of more effective incentives and policies to support and stimulate real progress on sustainable development; and

all NHS organisations to report annually on a key metric as a part of a simple scorecard of sustainable development indicators, to be considered for performance purposes.

The strategy is the first product of the new NHS sustainable development unit. It forms the first step of a sustainable development programme for the NHS.

Based on the feedback from the consultation responses, expected by 21 August, it is intended that the strategy will be published in the autumn.

"Saving Carbon, Improving Health, a Draft Carbon Reduction Strategy for the NHS in England—a Consultation Document" has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Health and Social Care

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The Department is launching a consultation today on proposals for five essential elements of a long-term strategy to support volunteering in health and social care. The consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

A volunteering strategy will articulate the key actions needed to address the perceived obstacles to making a refreshed vision for volunteering in health and social care a reality. Informed by the consultation process, the proposed strategy will provide a framework through which to pursue long-term organisational and culture change across the whole system to support volunteering more effectively, in relation to:

individual volunteers;

effective management within organisations;

commissioning environment and infrastructure; and

promoting partnership and leadership across the public and third sectors.

The strategy will build on existing best practice and build partnerships for sustained involvement of volunteers through an increasingly diverse range of services in statutory and non-statutory settings. It will provide the basis for more coherent national investment by the Department, to improve the strategic impact of volunteering, for the benefit of patients, carers and service users.

The consultation will run until 30 September 2008, with a view to my Department setting out a final strategy and implementation plan early in 2009.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Tackling Extremism

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): Local communities working in partnership with their local authorities, police, education institutions and others, are at the heart of stopping people becoming or supporting violent extremists. Today my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Secretary of State for Justice and I have published detailed guidance to organisations actively to assist them with their work.

This guidance is supported by activity and funding from across government, including £12.5 million to be spent to counter violent extremism and identify and support those individuals at risk across a range of key sectors, including in prisons, among youth offenders, and through community and police-led projects.

Our aim is to improve the long-term security of the United Kingdom. This work complements the action that the security agencies are taking to disrupt those who represent an imminent threat. Along with "The Prevent Strategy: Stopping People Becoming or Supporting Terrorists and Violent Extremism, a Guide for Local Partners", we are also publishing "Preventing Violent Extremism: A Strategy for Delivery", which summarises the strategic framework and key priorities.

Report by the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I am today laying before Parliament a copy of the report by Mrs. Linda Costelloe Baker, the independent monitor for entry clearance refusals with limited rights of appeal, covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2007. A copy is also being made available on the UKBA website at www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk, together with the UK Border Agency's response to the independent monitor's recommendations.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for this thorough and positive report based on the 824 sample cases which she has reviewed for the period 1 April to 30 September 2007.

In the report, Mrs Costelloe Baker comments that "UKvisas has managed a huge programme of business change, holding on to principles of fairness and good service in the face of a strong 'controls' agenda. It sets itself high standards and deserves the praise and awards it receives for its successes".

Mrs. Costelloe Baker also makes a number of constructive recommendations as to how the UK Border Agency can continue to improve the quality of decision making, customer service and complaint handling. The UK Border Agency welcomes these comments and is keen to use these recommendations to drive up the quality of its service to customers whilst maintaining a high level of immigration control.

I wish to record our thanks to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for the work and effort she has put into producing this her third report as independent monitor for entry clearance refusals with limited rights of appeal. The independent monitor's next report will cover the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008 and will be published in the second half of 2008.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

EU Education Council

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell): I represented the UK at Education Council, on behalf of DIUS and DCSF.

Ministers adopted conclusions on multilingualism, noting that the Commission would produce a policy framework on this issue in the autumn. Ministers also adopted conclusions on adult learning that set out specific measures to be undertaken in this area by the Commission and the member states between 2008 and 2010. The text of the conclusions is in line with UK national priorities.

The Council agreed a general approach on the European year of creativity and innovation in 2009. I stated that the UK supported the year but queried whether matched funding would be available for member states to undertake events as part of this initiative. The Commission confirmed that project funding would come from existing EU programmes. Ministers also discussed and adopted conclusions on promoting creativity and innovation through education and training. We strongly support these conclusions which note the importance of creativity and innovation for reaching Lisbon targets, and the need to develop innovative capacity in children from an early age.

The Presidency provided an update on the decision to extend the Erasmus Mundus programme beyond 2009. The European Parliament is currently discussing this dossier, and the French presidency will take this forward with a view to reaching a First Reading agreement in the autumn.

The Presidency noted the state of play between the Council and Parliament in the recast decision setting up the European training foundation. The Parliament has now rejected the Council's position regarding the composition of the foundation's governing board, so this dossier is likely to progress to a Second Reading.

The Commission presented its proposals for two recommendations in the area of European vocational education and training: a credit system; and a quality assurance reference framework. These two proposals have recently been the subject of explanatory memoranda from the Government and will be subject to discussion by officials, with the aim of Ministers reaching an agreement at the next Education Council in November.

The French Minister presented France's presidency priorities in the field of education: lifelong learning; enhanced co-operation in European vocational education and training; and youth mobility.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International Agricultural Research Organisations

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I am today announcing the allocation of £150 million to support international agricultural research organisations. Of this, £130 million is allocated to the international research centres of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the balance to other international agricultural research organisations which complement the work of the CGIAR. By the end of the five year period this will represent an increase from the present £20 million per annum to £35 million per annum. Our funds will be spent on: developing new varieties of staple crops and livestock (including adaptation to climate change); developing new income opportunities for communities from high value commodities (fruits, vegetables, fisheries and forest products); conserving crop and animal biodiversity for future use; achieving the more sustainable management of water, land and forestry resources; and improving agricultural and food policies (including markets and trade).

This is part of the £400 million DFID has already announced for agricultural research under DFID's new five year research strategy.

Burma Cyclone Nargis

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): A month has passed since cyclone Nargis hit Burma on 2 May. While access has improved, the situation remains extremely grave. The UN continues to estimate that 2.4 million people have been directly affected by the cyclone and only 1 million of those have so far received any form of relief. Most of those who have been reached are in the most accessible and least badly affected regions. The official Burmese death toll is 78,000 and 56,000 missing. The threat of further deaths from infectious diseases and malaria is significant. Priority needs are food, shelter, clean drinking water and medical supplies.

The delivery of relief goods is increasing. The UN air-bridge between Bangkok and Rangoon is operating. We estimate a total of 237 flights have arrived since the cyclone struck. The first of nine World Food Programme helicopters is now delivering aid supplies to the Delta region.

The UK Government's priority has been, and remains, to ensure that relief reaches those who need it most. To this end, I attended the UN/ASEAN conference in Rangoon on 25 May at the personal invitation of the UN Secretary-General. The conference confirmed the importance of international aid workers being given necessary access to affected areas and the key role to be played by the ASEAN nations in facilitating the international relief effort.

Since the conference there has been some improvement in access. No visas have been refused to UN or international NGO personnel in the last seven days. The Myanmar Red Cross has been able to scale up its operations substantially in the Delta. Five international medical teams from countries in the region are now providing support to national health care staff in the Delta. A DFID team managed to travel to the Irrawaddy Delta on 29 May.

However, significant concerns remain. Visa extensions are being granted for only one or two weeks at a time; there have been restrictions on dates of travel and requirements that Government liaison officers accompany relief staff. There are still too few relief workers based in the Delta.

The UK remains the largest single donor to the relief effort. We have contributed £7 million to the UN Flash Appeal; we have also channelled £6.7 million through international NGOs, including Merlin, MSF Holland and Save the Children. Our humanitarian team, which has been operating in Rangoon for three weeks, continues to play a crucial role in helping coordinate the overall aid operation.

A total of 20 DFID-funded aid flights have now arrived in Rangoon, delivering plastic sheeting and blankets for 250,000 people, hygiene kits and flat-bottomed boats for use in the Delta. All these items have been consigned to the UN, NGOs and the Red Cross. We are also transporting 162,000 mosquito nets into Burma.

In addition to our previous commitment of £17 million, I am today announcing a further £10.5 million, bringing our total contribution to £27.5 million. These additional funds will be channelled through the Red Cross, NGOs and local community-based organisations. As before, none of the UK's assistance will go through the Burmese regime.

While the Government's immediate focus is to provide immediate assistance to those affected by the cyclone, this does not diminish our commitment to the restoration of accountable, democratic Government in Burma. It is an indictment of the Burmese regime that they proceeded with their constitutional referendum in the immediate aftermath of this natural disaster. The official results lack all credibility. I am also disappointed and saddened that the Government has once again ignored the international community and extended Aung San Suu Kyi's detention on 27 May.

Millions of people remain in desperate need. Our priority remains to get assistance to those that need it. To do so, the regime's promises to the UN Secretary-General must be turned into action. Together with the UN, ASEAN and NGOs, the UK Government will be monitoring the situation closely in the days and weeks ahead.

TRANSPORT

Longer and Heavier Goods Vehicles

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): The Transport Research Laboratory has today published a report, commissioned by my Department, on the subject of longer and heavier goods vehicles (LHVs). The report highlights a number of issues that make the implementation of large 25.25 metre LHVs—sometimes referred to as "super-lorries"—impractical either on a permanent or trial basis. I will therefore not be allowing them on UK roads for the foreseeable future.

The following issues highlighted in the report have been influential in arriving at my decision:

> There is a risk (substantial in the case of 60 tonne super-lorries) of increased CO_2 emissions and other environmental drawbacks due to modal shift from rail to road if these vehicles were to be permitted, which would also impact on the viability of existing rail freight services and the potential for future growth.
>
> There are serious implications for the management of the road network, as such vehicles would be unsuitable for many roads and junctions.
>
> Substantial investment—in the order of several billion pounds—would be needed to provide for junction improvements, the protection of bridge supports, and the provision of parking infrastructure for statutory rest periods, particularly if a new nationwide network of dedicated facilities is required.
>
> There is uncertainty about how efficiently such vehicles could be used, particularly when sourcing loads of sufficient size to make return journeys sustainable.
>
> Such vehicles would introduce new safety risks.

It is not currently possible for us to mandate tougher safety or manoeuvrability standards that might address some of these issues because of European trade rules.

The report does show, however, that there could be worthwhile benefits from permitting a modest increase in the length of current articulated vehicles. The Department will consider these further in the context of its on-going strategic work on freight, on which I expect to publish a summary of progress this summer.

The report will help inform member states and the European Commission who are reviewing the rules on lorry sizes as part of the logistics action plan to improve the efficiency of transport and logistics in the European Union.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House and can also be viewed at www.trl.co.uk.

Railway Heritage Committee

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): I have today launched a public consultation on proposals to extend the scope of the Railway Heritage Committee. The public consultation, which will run until 5 September 2008, identifies three options to enable the Committee to extend its scope to railway related bodies that were overlooked or not in existence at the time of the original legislation. These options are:

for legislation to remain the same;

for railway related bodies to voluntarily agree to allow the Committee to designate their records and artefacts; or

to add further organisations to the original list of bodies covered by the 1996 Railway Heritage Act.

From previous discussions between the Committee and railway bodies, and a response to an informal questionnaire in March, there is a need for such bodies to be brought into the scope of the Committee to enable it to fully meet its statutory obligations.

The consultation also seeks to update its membership to enable it to appoint an archivist. Current legislation restricts the Department's ability to attract suitable candidates and appoint members who do not meet the existing requirements of the Public Records Act 1958.

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 4 June 2008

DEFENCE

Agency Key Targets

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): Key targets for the financial year 2008-09 for the following Ministry of Defence agencies and trading funds have been placed in the Library of the House:

Defence Support Group
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency
Hydrographic Office
Met Office

Key targets for the Defence Vetting Agency, Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency, People Pay and Pensions Agency, Service Children's Education and the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency will be published shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Minister for Science and Innovation, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson) announced the start of a review of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 80WS. On 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1WS, I announced the publication of the independent report of that review. Today, I am announcing the Government response to the recommendations put forward in that report.

The review carried out by independent consultants concluded that there was a continuing need for the RCEP and that it needed modernising to improve its level of impact and effectiveness.

The Government response I am publishing today sets out our future policy for the RCEP. New activities have been funded by savings released through efficiency gains from other areas of the Commission's activity. The Government response will be implemented through annual plans agreed between DEFRA and the RCEP over the next three years.

My officials worked with the RCEP to identify ways of improving its way of working, along the lines envisaged in the report, while keeping within its current resources. This approach was agreed with the devolved administrations, other Government Departments, and the RCEP.

The Government value the work of the RCEP as an independent, high quality and objective analyser of environmental issues. Its reports are often highly influential and enhance the quality of Government policy making.

A summary of the Government response follows at annex 1 and background information about the RCEP at annex 2.

Copies of the Government response and the review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available on the DEFRA website.

Annex 1

Summary of the Government response to the review of the RCEP

The Government welcome the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report and its findings. We value the work that the RCEP has done as an independent, high quality and objective analyser of environmental issues. The great value of RCEP to Government has rested on its combination of independence and scientific authority. We value its reports which are often highly influential and deliver policy benefits to the Government.

We have been working with RCEP to identify ways in which it could modernise along the lines envisaged in the review while keeping within existing resources. Our approach has been to fund the new activities proposed in the PwC report through savings released through efficiency gains in other areas of the Commission's work. We have worked with the RCEP to identify areas where RCEP could make such savings which include:

Costs of accommodation—by moving from current private accommodation to an estate building, including re-letting current premises;

Costs of hiring meeting rooms—by using DEFRA meetings rooms which are free of charge;

Costs of IT support and printing/photocopying—by using DEFRA IT-shared services and reprographic facilities.

These could amount to savings of around £89,000 a year, although smaller savings are expected in the first year, to allow for the cost of fees, dilapidations, disposal of current accommodation and IT relocation and removal (estimated not to exceed £49,000). The realisation of these savings, and hence the implementation of the review recommendations, will clearly depend on RCEP achieving value for money with regard to the way it uses its resources.

Under the existing framework document, the RCEP agrees a business plan with DEFRA defining its strategic direction, priorities and goals over the next three years. This annual plan assists DEFRA in fulfilling its financial management responsibilities by helping us to assess whether resources allocated to RCEP represent value for money. Implementation of these recommendations will be an element of the plan over the next three years.

Annex 2

Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution is an independent standing body that advises the Queen, Government, Parliament and the public on environmental issues. It was established by royal warrant in February 1970. The Commission's terms of reference are *"To advise on matters, both national and international, concerning* *the pollution of the environment; on the adequacy of research in this field; and the future possibilities of danger to the environment".*

The Commission interprets "pollution" broadly as covering any introduction by man into the environment of substances or energy liable to cause hazards to human health, harm to living resources and ecological systems, damage to structures or amenity, or interference with legitimate uses of the environment. Within this remit the Commission has freedom to consider and advise on any matter it chooses; the Government may also request the Commission to consider particular topics.

The Commission's advice is mainly in the form of reports which are the outcome of major studies. The RCEP published its 26th report on the urban environment in March 2007 and is concluding its study on the environmental impact of novel materials during 2008. In September 2007, it announced its next study, "adapting the UK to climate change". In reaching its conclusions, the Commission seeks to make a balanced assessment, which takes account of the wider implications for society of any control or preventive measures proposed.

The Commission is funded through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and is supported by a small full-time secretariat. The Commission maintains links with Government Departments, parliamentary committees, pollution control agencies, research organisations, industry and environmental groups, and with its counterparts in other European countries.

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I will be representing the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 5 June.

At this Council, the Slovenian presidency will hold a policy debate on the climate and energy legislative package. The policy debate will focus on the following key areas: improving and extending the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading system of the Community; member states' efforts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's reduction commitments up to 2020; carbon capture and storage; and the promotion of renewable energy.

There will also be a progress report by the presidency and public deliberation on the Commission's proposal for setting emissions performance standards to reduce CO_2 emissions from new passenger cars. Ministers will consider the current state of play of the Commission's proposal.

An exchange of views will be held on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) looking at the way forward.

Under 'any other business', the Presidency will update the Council on: the Euro VI regulation; the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity; the conference of the parties to the Cartagena protocol on biosafety; progress under the Bali road map; the outcome of the "bridging the gap" conference, and; the implementation of the action programme for the implementation of the territorial agenda of the EU. The Presidency and the Commission will also provide information on the environmental crime directive, and the Commission will also update the Council on proposals for sustainable consumption and production and sustainable industrial policy. Information on the fourth meeting of the parties to the convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context has been requested a member state.

Avian Influenza (Oxfordshire)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): On 2 June, suspicion of avian influenza was reported on premises near Banbury in Oxfordshire, following deaths in the chicken-laying flock and a reduction in egg production. Following initial tests, the chief veterinary officer confirmed the H7 strain of avian influenza on 3 June.

The culling of all birds on the premises, and the following up of any dangerous contacts, will now take place. Laboratory testing continues and full confirmation of results, including whether the strain is high or low pathogenic will follow. A detailed epidemiological investigation is also in progress.

A temporary control zone with a 3 km inner zone and a 10 km outer zone have been established around the infected premises. All birds must be housed or otherwise isolated from contact with wild birds in the inner zone . Bird gatherings are banned in the whole of the temporary control zone. We are urgently considering whether any wider measures may be needed.

Avian influenza is largely a disease of birds, and the virus does not easily cross from birds to infect humans. In almost all instances, such transmission requires extremely close contact with infected birds.

I would stress the need for poultry keepers to be extremely vigilant, practise the highest levels of biosecurity and report any suspicions of disease to their local animal health office immediately.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those in DEFRA, animal health, and other partners for their usual professional and rapid response.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 9-10 June 2008. The health and consumer affairs part of the Council will be taken on 10 June.

Items on the main agenda are: adoption of Council conclusions on reducing the burden of cancer; on a co-operation mechanism between the Council and the Commission for the implementation of the EU health strategy; and conclusions on antimicrobial resistance. The UK supports these conclusions. There will also be progress report from the Slovenian presidency on the proposal for a regulation on novel foods.

Ministers will have a policy debate on the provision of information to patients on medicinal products and will be asked to adopt draft Council conclusions on this. The UK is broadly supportive of the Council conclusions.

Over lunch, the presidency have arranged an introductory presentation by Zsuzsanna Jakab, director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and will chair a debate and exchange of views on "An EU Action plan to fight tuberculosis". This follows on from the publication in February 2008 of the "Framework Action Plan to Fight TB in the EU", which the UK supports.

Under 'any other business', the presidency and the Commission intend to provide information on the proposal for a directive on cross-border healthcare and patient rights; the conference on "eHealth without frontiers" which took place Slovenia on 5-7 May; the EU Strategy to support member states in reducing alcohol-related harm; nutrition, overweight and obesity related health issues; the framework convention on tobacco control; organ donation and transplantation; the proposed package on patient safety to be published later in 2008; health security-related matters; the strategy for Europe on mental health; the proposal for a directive on the variations to the terms of marketing authorisations for medicinal products; the networking meeting of the competent authorities for pricing and reimbursement of pharmaceuticals which was held on 28-29 April 2008 in Slovenia; and finally the food improvements package.

The UK is broadly supportive of the strategy, which focuses on many of the UK's own priorities for EU action and can support the conclusions.

There will also be a debate on health and migration in the EU and the presidency will ask Ministers to adopt draft Council conclusions on this issue. The Portuguese presidency chose health and migration as their theme in recognition of the fact that migrant populations are often exposed to health inequalities. The UK broadly supports their conclusions.

Also tabled for adoption are Council conclusions on a Commission White Paper on a strategy for Europe on nutrition, overweight and obesity-related issues, and a Commission communication on organ donation and transplantation. The UK is fully supportive of these conclusions as drafted. There will also be a presidency progress report on combating HIV/AIDS within the EU and in the neighbouring countries.

Over lunch, the presidency will chair an informal ministerial discussion on the Commission's forthcoming proposals for a Community framework on health services.

Under 'any other business', there will be information from the presidency on their presidency health conferences and on draft Council conclusions on environment and health, which are to be discussed in the Environmental Council later this month. There will also be information items from the Commission on: a Community framework on health services; a strategy for Europe on mental health; health security-related matters; the Commission's high-level group on health services and medical care and the framework convention on tobacco control; and the Slovenian delegation will provide information on the work programme for their forthcoming presidency.

JUSTICE

Land Registry (Framework Document 2008)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Land Registry's revised framework document is published today, 4th June 2008.

Land Registry became an executive agency of the Lord Chancellor in July 1990 and over the last 18 years has enthusiastically grasped the opportunities that agency status and, since 1993, trading fund status have provided. During that period it has met improving financial, customer service and development targets whilst making land registration services progressively more efficient and cheaper.

The framework document is a statement of Land Registry's legal position and reflects its status as a non-ministerial Department. It sets out the role and responsibilities of the Chief Land Registrar and those of the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice.

Copies of the revised framework document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available on the internet at www.landregistry.gov.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

European Councils

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 9 June in Luxembourg. The UK will be represented by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Health and Consumer Affairs issues are being taken on 10 June.

The presidency hopes to reach agreement on an amended proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/88/EC concerning certain aspects of the organisation of Working Time (9554/05 (formerly 12683/04). UK priorities remain a solution to the problems caused by the ECJ SIMAP and Jaeger judgments, and the retention of a workable individual right to opt out of the 48-hour maximum working week. The UK is still analysing the proposal from the presidency, but believes it is a further step forward in that it provides further legal clarity on the use of the opt out and the solution to the issues raised by the SIMAP and Jaeger judgments.

The draft directive of the European Parliament and the Council on Working Conditions for Temporary Workers (15098/02 (24066)) is also on the agenda. The UK has twin objectives in relation to this directive—flexibility for employers and fairness for workers. The UK has been seeking a directive that gives people a fair deal at work without putting their jobs at risk or cutting off a valuable route into employment. With these goals in mind the UK Government welcomed the recent agreement between the CBI and TUC on how fairer treatment for agency workers in the UK should be promoted. The UK Government will seek agreement on the terms of the directive that will enable this agreement to be brought into legal effect in the UK.

The Council will seek the adoption of conclusions on the Commission recommendation to enhance administrative co-operation in the context of the posting of workers. These relate to measures to improve the implementation of the posting of workers directive through enhanced administrative co-operation and exchange of information between member states, and to set up a committee to identify and exchange experience and good practice. The UK supports the recommendation.

The Council will also seek adoption of conclusions on anticipating and matching labour market needs, with special emphasis on youth. This is a presidency priority as youth employment has remained stubbornly high in some EU member states. Additionally, the Council will also seek to endorse the Employment Committee's opinion on skills, jobs and youth. The opinion does not call for the prioritisation of youth over other disadvantaged groups as measures which ease unemployment generally also benefit youth. The UK supports the text.

The Council will aim to agree a partial general approach on the latest instalment of an implementing regulation for social security co-ordination Regulation 883/2004 Title IV—Financial Provisions. A continuation of the work to simplify and modernise the coordination rules by discussing implementing procedures. This presidency has covered financial provisions, in particular issues relating recovery of overpaid benefits and contributions. The UK fully supports the Council text and welcomes improved provisions for recovery.

In addition, the Council will also aim to agree a general approach on the proposal to amend the annexes to Regulation 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security—articles 42 and 308 of the treaty. The annexes cover issues such as special rules for applying member states' social security legislation, which parts of social security agreements between member states are still to be taken account of, lists of benefits that are not paid abroad and how pension calculations are to be carried out. The UK is happy that the presidency has pushed negotiations forward so well.

The Council will also seek adoption of conclusions on two further items in follow up to the Beijing platform, "Indicators in respect of the Girl Child" and "Women in political decision-making". The Slovenian presidency has chosen to work on the subject of "the Girl Child" and has produced draft Council conclusions and a report including a set of indicators. The presidency has also prepared a review report on women in political decision-making and produced draft Council conclusions, which among other things, encourage the member states and the Commission to launch quantitative and qualitative studies on the outcome of positive measures for increasing women's access to and participation in power and decision-making, and to promote dissemination of good practices.

The Council will also seek adoption of Council conclusions on elimination of gender stereotypes in society. The conclusions among other things, call on the member states and the Commission to "continue and strengthen active co-operation with the social partners and other stakeholders in order to reduce gender segregation and gender gaps on the labour market, including by taking concrete actions to eliminate the gender pay gap and improving the recognition of the value of work in jobs and sectors predominantly occupied by women". The UK has no objection to the draft Council conclusions.

Under 'any other business', there will be an oral report from the chair of the Social Protection Committee on Social Services of General Interest (following up the 2007 communication annexed to the single market review). There will also be reports from the presidency of recent presidency conferences. There will also be information from the presidency about a proposal for a Council directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment. In addition the Bulgarians will report about European social policy week which was held in Sofia 26 to 30 May 2008.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 5 June 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): On 7 May 2008, I set out to the House the approach that the Government intended to take to the transfer and appointment of local government employees in areas that are subject to local government restructuring. I also informed the House that we were circulating draft versions of the staffing regulations and a draft guidance document to key stakeholders—including the joint implementation teams established locally, all affected councils, the main local government trades unions and the local government employers—for their final comments.

Following consideration of the comments we received, and all the views expressed as part of our extensive discussions with interested parties over the past months, I am today laying the staffing regulations before the House. We are also today publishing the document "Guidance on Staffing Issues". I have placed a copy of this document in the Library of the House.

This approach—a balance of regulation and guidance—establishes a clear and consistent framework to support the new unitary councils to manage the transition to become flagship new councils leading the way in empowering communities, promoting economic prosperity and modernising local service delivery.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Memorial

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The armed forces memorial, dedicated to some 16,000 members of the United Kingdom armed forces killed on duty or as a result of terrorist action since the end of the second world war, was constructed at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and dedicated by Her Majesty the Queen on 12 October 2007. The concept for the memorial was first announced in the House of Commons by the then Secretary of State for Defence, on 10 November 2000, *Official Report*, column 414W.

In May 2006, following parliamentary approval (via the departmental contingent liability minute dated 22 May 2006), the Ministry of Defence provided an indemnity of £3.3 million to the trust which provided for money to be loaned to underwrite the costs of the project that were not then covered by donations. This underwriting allowed the trustees to proceed with contractual arrangements to meet successfully the unveiling deadline of October 2007.

The costs of the project are now expected to be in the region of £7.3 million and the trustees of the armed forces memorial trust have raised £6.7 million. This sum includes £1.5 million met from the proceeds of the sale of Trafalgar coins which the then Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 13 February 2006. The trust also secured a Millennium Commission grant of £2.417million. The remainder was raised from public subscription.

While there has been no call on the underwriting, the armed forces memorial trustees have recently advised the Ministry of Defence that there is no realistic prospect of significant further public contributions. Consequently, the trustees have sought payment, forecast at some £500,000 in total, to meet outstanding construction costs owed to contractors and expected construction costs. The Ministry of Defence now intends to meet these costs and the cost of inscription of names of those who died since 2007, as an unrecoverable charge to defence funds. These costs will be treated as special payments and recorded in the Ministry of Defence annual report and accounts. This expenditure will be authorised on the sole authority of the Appropriation Act. Provision for payments will be sought through the normal Supply procedures.

The Ministry of Defence also intends to provide an annual grant-in-aid to the armed forces memorial trustees to cover maintenance of the memorial and to fund the inscription of names of those who have died since the original inscriptions were made and those who die on duty or as a result of terrorist action in future. Annual maintenance costs and engraving is expected to cost some £120,000 to £150,000 per annum. Subject to negotiation with the trustees, the Ministry of Defence is therefore proposing to make a grant of some £120,000 to £150,000 per year to be reviewed by April 2010 and subject to uprating in the interim.

The payment of these costs is a departure from the established policy that the MOD does not fund military memorials from public funds, and a change from the statement made by the then Secretary of State for Defence on 10 November 2000, *Official Report*, column 414W. The Ministry of Defence considers that the unique circumstances warrant an exceptional departure from established policy to provide an element of funding for the armed forces memorial.

Defence Plan 2008

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am today publishing "Defence Plan 2008-12", which sets out in one place for the first time both our key targets for the coming year and the resources the Government are making available to deliver these.

As the plan makes clear, our highest priority remains operational success in Iraq and Afghanistan. Achieving this is down to the men and women who make defence happen, and who rise magnificently to the challenges they face. In this plan we set out much of the work that is underway to support them, including further investment in housing and accommodation. We also plan to deliver a very ambitious programme of behavioural and organisational change. We have set in hand work to streamline the management of defence, including the head office and its relationship with the front line commands. And building on the successful formation of defence equipment and support a year ago, we are taking forward the next step in the series of business improvement programmes that will improve the way the MOD acquires and supports equipment. Defence does not stand still. As the plan shows, we are a dynamic and complex organisation meeting the security challenges of today while preparing for an uncertain future.

Defence Relations

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): In my last statement to the House on the defence attaché network on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 125WS, I said that the Ministry of Defence would continue to review the attaché network, as it has done regularly in the past. I can now announce some further changes. In spite of a very taut planning round for the MOD, I have been able to increase the Department's funding of the network for the next four years to meet substantial and new external costs incurred by the attaché network from this financial year. To meet a remaining shortfall we will, however, be closing our defence sections over the next two years in Barbados, Bulgaria, Finland, Portugal and Sri Lanka and making a reduction in the defence section in India.

Our remaining attachés will focus increasingly on supporting the Government's broad security objectives of building peace and stability, reducing the risk of terrorism and in securing support for operations. We are keen to sustain our conflict prevention work, assist more vulnerable states to develop appropriate security structures and to help those who may contribute to peace support operations.

We greatly value the work of our attaché network. At the same time, the investment we make in the network needs to be as cost-effective and as relevant to our international interests as possible. The results of the latest review are designed to achieve these objectives.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Pesticides Safety Directorate (Performance Targets 2008-09)

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Minister with responsibility for marine, landscape and rural affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) announced on 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 9WS, that following a public consultation, Ministers had agreed that the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) should join the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) from 1 April 2008. Under this arrangement, strategic policy responsibility for pesticides remains with DEFRA Ministers with the operational responsibility for pesticides delegated to the HSE.

In retaining ministerial responsibility for pesticides, I have set PSD the following performance targets for 2008-09.

> To evaluate pesticide approval applications and applications for detergent derogations according to published targets and fees and contribute effectively to the European programme of reviews and the development of internationally harmonised procedures.
>
> To develop and implement policies which take forward the UK pesticide strategy through consultation, negotiation, better regulation and effective communication.
>
> To monitor use of pesticides, the impact, fate and behaviour of these chemicals and undertake consistent, proportionate and effective enforcement activity to promote safe storage, use and disposal.
>
> To manage all our resources effectively, to recover the full cost of our operations from the industry and DEFRA and to contribute to the Government's efficiency agenda.

Further details are given in the "Pesticides Safety Directorate Three-year Business Plan 2008-11: Year 2008-09", copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Animal Health Agency (Performance Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I have set the Animal Health agency the following performance targets for 2008-09.

> Achieve 3 per cent. (£3.4 million) efficiency gains by the end of the financial period 2008-09.
>
> Work with DEFRA's Food and Farming Group to plan a programme of Transfer of Functions to Animal Health by the end of quarter two. The programme will include the development of specific capabilities to deliver the new work successfully and implementation of the first tranche of agreed transfers before the end of April 09.
>
> Review the capabilities and deployment of resources in disease emergencies and produce proposals for improvements including associated costs. Agree and publish an implementation plan with corporate customers in England Scotland and Wales by the end of quarter one.
>
> Successfully implement Business Reform Programme (BRP) Customer Contact Module to the specification agreed by the BRP programme board.
>
> Carry out a customer analysis and identify key customer segments and satisfaction drivers for them. Cover the full spectrum of our customers (including our corporate and direct customers), and devise and implement a programme of measures to make animal health more customer-centric.

Further details are given in the "Animal Health Business Plan for 2008-09", copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Titan Prisons

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): In December 2007 the Government announced their response to Lord Carter of Coles' review of prisons. In January 2008 we published an update on specific developments in prison policy, including the prison building programme. That update included a commitment to consult on the development of the Titan prison programme recommended by Lord Carter and the place of these large prisons in the wider strategy for the prison estate.

Reducing reoffending and protecting the public lies at the heart of the Ministry of Justice's work and is a key priority for the Government. We have a strong package of measures in place to ensure we achieve our objectives. Our strategy remains that the most serious and dangerous offenders should be in prison, with less serious offenders managed in the community through sentences which can often be more effective in terms of reducing reoffending than short prison sentences.

Both in custody and in the community the Government are focused on matching resources to need. Interventions that will help an offender to change should reflect the seriousness of his or her offence and the risk he or she poses. This is true for the most serious offenders in the high security estate, whose risk of harm to others is high, through to less serious offenders serving their sentence in the community.

For many offenders a custodial sentence is necessary to protect the public and reduce reoffending, and that means providing sufficient places to meet the volume of sentences handed down by the courts. In addition, there must be sufficient places for those remanded in custody pending trial.

Since 1997 the Government have provided an extra 20,000 prison places. In December we announced plans for a further prison building programme, including three new Titan prison complexes, each housing 2,500 prisoners.

Titan prisons have a part to play in ensuring that we have sufficient capacity to continue to achieve our objectives, of which the most important is protecting the public. We will aim to use the most up to date technology to make them as secure as possible—both in terms of external security but also through the design of the blocks the aim will be to give prison officers every opportunity to manage a safe environment.

We will also intend them to provide value for money for the taxpayer. Sending an offender to prison is expensive and we have a duty to work as hard as possible to use taxpayers' money efficiently and effectively. Titan prisons will offer efficiencies and better use of technology, shared services and, we intend, will provide for the overhaul of old and inefficient parts of the prison estate.

The complexes will also provide the opportunity to "build in" rehabilitative functions, to ensure that prisoners get the treatment and work programmes they need in order to give them a chance to change their ways and reduce the risk of reoffending when they return to the community.

The Ministry of Justice has introduced end-to-end offender management, for serious and prolific offenders. Titan prisons will allow individual offenders to spend more of their sentence in one place, rather than being moved round the prison estate through their sentence and so reduce costs and disruption to rehabilitation.

These improvements in offender management will therefore help the Ministry of Justice to protect the public and reduce recidivism, but also to do so at a reduced cost to the taxpayer.

I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and published on the Ministry of Justice website, a consultation document as the first step in a broad consultation process designed to help shape the development of this innovative approach to prison design and operation. http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp1008.htm. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The consultation document:

> sets out the Government's proposals for the development of a comprehensive strategy for the prison estate and the part which Titan prisons might play in that strategy;
>
> develops Lord Carter's proposals for the specific roles which Titan prisons would play in the prison estate and describes the kinds of innovation in service delivery which the Government are seeking to secure;
>
> seeks views on the role of Titan prisons in renewing the prison estate by providing opportunities to replace old accommodation which may no longer be fit for purpose; and;
>
> sets out the Governments thinking on how large establishments should be managed in order to secure the maximum benefits.

Lord Carter did not recommend, and the Government do not intend to develop, monolithic 2,500 bed prison "warehouses". The consultation document describes the kind of approaches we wish to encourage in pursuing the Titan model. That is, prisons that provide prisoner accommodation to an appropriate standard, which deliver good value for money and which maximise opportunities to reduce reoffending.

Titans are just one component of Lord Carter's package of recommendations. In particular, the Government look forward to receiving the findings and recommendations from Lord Justice Gage and his working group which is examining the advantages, disadvantages and feasibility of a structured sentencing framework and Sentencing Commission.

While it has already accepted Lord Carter's recommendations, including Titan prisons, the Government want to hear from all who have views and experience that could help shape the development and operation of these important new establishments.

TRANSPORT

Crossrail Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): I am today placing in the House Libraries a copy of the "Promoter of the Crossrail Bill's response to the First Special Report of Session 2007-08" published on 27 May by the House of Lords Select Committee on the Crossrail Bill ("Select Committee on the Crossrail Bill 1st Special Report 2007-08: HL Paper 112-I").

The Promoter's response welcomes the Committee's Special Report, and thanks the Committee for their careful and considered work, which was concluded with a comprehensive Special Report.

The Promoter also provides a response to specific sections of the Committee's Special Report, which I hope will be of assistance to petitioners, the House, and other stakeholders and interested parties.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 6 June 2008

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Ian Pearson): The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council that took place in Brussels on 29-30 May. The research session of the Council was held on 30 May and was chaired by Mojca Kucler Dolinar, Slovenian Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology. A ministerial dinner took place on 29 May to discuss the location of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). I represented the UK at the dinner and at the Council.

The Council adopted a Council regulation establishing a joint undertaking to implement a joint technology initiative (JTI) for fuel cells and hydrogen. The JTI is expected to be launched as soon as possible.

The Council agreed a resolution on a code of practice on intellectual property for universities and other public research organisations, and agreed conclusions on European research infrastructures, family-friendly scientific careers, and the launch of the Ljubljana process, an initiative which aims to agree a long-term vision and governance structure for the European research area (ERA). I reiterated the UK's support of the Ljubljana process and its aims, and emphasised the importance of recognising business investment in R&D and getting the framework conditions right to better encourage this. I also stressed the need to develop a fully effective external angle to the ERA in order to help address the global challenges of climate change, food supply, and energy sustainability.

Under 'any other business', the Council took note of presentations by the Commission on better careers and more mobility for European researchers, and on a code of conduct for responsible nanosciences and nanotechnologies research. I intervened on nano research, reiterating the UK's support for the code and stressed the need to encourage its uptake. I emphasised the need for better co-ordinated research and regulation on nano research in order to help fill the gaps in knowledge that currently exist in the development and use of this technology, particularly in respect to addressing concerns on health and safety and the potential effects on the environment.

The Council also took note of presentations by the presidency on the progress of two proposals for decisions to set up research initiatives based on article 169 of the treaty (Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) and Eurostars), and on improving EU-Russia research links.

The Council could not reach the consensus needed to agree the location of the EIT administrative headquarters at the ministerial dinner on 29 May, and has agreed to meet again on 18 June to revisit the issue.

CABINET OFFICE

London 2012 (Legacy Action Plan)

The Minister for the Olympics (Tessa Jowell): I have today launched the "Government Olympic Executive Legacy Action Plan—Before, During and After: Making the Most of the London 2012 Games".

The document fulfils the commitment to publish a legacy action plan, following the publication of "Our Promise for 2012" in June 2007. The five promises are:

to make the UK a world-leading sporting nation;

to transform the heart of East London;

to inspire a generation of young people;

to make the Olympic park a blueprint for sustainable living; and

to demonstrate that the UK is a creative, inclusive and welcoming place to live in, to visit and for business.

The plan outlines the ways in which the Government will deliver on these promises through new programmes and the unique added value of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to existing programmes. As such there is no discrete legacy budget; rather we are creating Olympic value by drawing together programmes from across Government.

Under each promise, the plan sets out between two and four headline ambitions and details the major programmes that will contribute towards achieving that aim.

A robust and transparent governance system has also been put in place to drive progress, and this will be monitored alongside the delivery of PSA 22—a successful Olympic Games and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy, with more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport.

This is the Government's first detailed statement on legacy, and it is the first time that a host city has published such a document before their olympiad has even begun. Further programmes will be created, and existing programmes and ideas developed over the next four years. We will report on progress regularly.

I would like to commend this plan to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest and support of the London 2012 Olympics.

Copies of the legacy action plan are available at www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Business Questions

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): In my response to my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay) during business questions on 22 May I said:

> "We have taken steps to improve the accountability of the security and intelligence services. There will be further steps in that direction in the Constitutional Renewal Bill, which has been published in draft. As I mentioned in response to an earlier question, there will be a possibility for pre-appointment hearings

by Select Committees, which are an important measure of accountability. I have heard my hon. Friend's points, and I will bring them to the attention of the relevant Ministers."—[*Official Report*, 22 May 2008; Vol. 476; c.408]

I would like to clarify that the Constitutional Renewal Bill does not contain provisions to improve the accountability of the security and intelligence services. However, the accompanying Constitutional Renewal White Paper does contain proposals to make significant changes to improve the transparency and effectiveness of the Intelligence and Security Committee through a resolution of both Houses.

Petition

Tuesday 20 May 2008

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Single Use Plastic Bags

The Petition of Councillor Ruth Potter of City of York Council and the people of York,

Declares that the petitioners support a plastic bag free City of York and calls upon the Council to achieve this aim.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to introduce legislation to ban or tax single use plastic bags.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Hugh Bayley, Official Report,* 28 April 2008; Vol. 475, c. 138 .] [P000181]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

Thank you for your petition in which you ask the House of Commons to consider the introduction of legislation to ban or tax single use plastic bags. I have been asked to reply as policy for this is DEFRA's responsibility.

The Government's long term aim, as set out in Waste Strategy 2007, is that free, single-use carrier bags (both paper and plastic) should become a thing of the past. In November 2007 the Prime Minister announced that we needed to go further, and phase out single-use carrier bags altogether in favour of longer-lasting, more sustainable alternatives.

As part of this year's Budget, the Government announced that it would be seeking to bring forward enabling legislation whereby a charge would be imposed on certain single-use carrier bags from 2009, unless retailers are able to achieve a substantial reduction in the number of bags distributed on a voluntary basis. Experience in Ireland and from trials in the UK by Marks and Spencer shows that a reduction of between 70 and 90 per cent can be expected if a modest charge is introduced.

We are not pursuing a ban on single-use carrier bags as this would be illegal under the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. The Directive lays down requirements on the composition of packaging; its reusable, recoverable and recyclable nature; and limits on it containing heavy metal concentrations. Article 18 of the Directive states that Member States shall not impede the placing on the market of packaging that satisfies the Directive requirements.

Petition

Wednesday 21 May 2008

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Road Improvements (Wellingborough)

The Humble Petition of residents of Croyland ward of Wellingborough and surrounding areas,

Sheweth,

That The Kingsway, a road in Wellingborough, is in disrepair, speed humps are severely damaged and the footpath is in a deplorable state.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to liaise with Northamptonshire County Council to provide, a) a complete resurfacing of the road and footpath, b) the removal of all speed humps and c) a revision of traffic calming measures including the *installation of chicanes and a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign.*

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 18 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 895.] [P000155]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

Improvements to the road infrastructure in the Wellingborough area are primarily the responsibility of the local highway authority, in this case Northamptonshire County Council, and thus the Secretary of State would not normally comment on the condition of local roads.

Government Office for the East Midlands understand that although Northamptonshire County Council have undertaken some road improvements in the Croyland Ward area these were done some time ago, and the County Council are unaware of the recent concerns of the residents in that area. They do have a large number of conflicting priorities across the county, but will try to ensure that appropriate action is taken to best serve the concerns of the local residents. Northamptonshire County Council have advised that, to best do this, sight of the petition with details of the concerns would be most helpful.

Petitions

Thursday 22 May 2008

OBSERVATIONS

DEFENCE

Support for Armed Services

The Petition of the Canvey Island Royal British Legion and Castle Point and others,

Declares that our Service men and women, past and present, are the bravest and best in the world and they deserve a better deal from the Government.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons implores the Government for the introduction of a decent Armed Services compensation scheme, decent health, welfare and support for ex service men and women and a scheme to give greater support to the bereaved families of those service men and women who do not return.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 3 March 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1562 .] [P000136]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Defence:

The Government is fully committed to meeting its duty of care to members of the Armed Forces and veterans who serve the country with such commitment and distinction, as well as to their families. Much has been achieved already but the Government recognises that more can and should be done. Current Service Chiefs, who are in the best position to judge, have made clear that the Military Covenant is not broken.

As recognised by the Royal British Legion, the Government has overseen a far-reaching programme of improvements including to Service pay, accommodation, health and welfare provisions, force protection, personal equipment arid to arrangements to support inquests, including a number of significant developments over the last 6 months.

The Government fully recognises the importance of providing adequate compensation for those injured in operations or training. It has in place a comprehensive system of compensation for Service personnel disabled, or those widowed, as a consequence of service. Only two and a half years ago, it introduced new pension and compensation schemes that greatly improved death-in-service benefits and widows' pensions, as well as providing lump sums for injury, which can, for the first time, be claimed while in service.

The new Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) makes payments according to a comprehensive graduated tariff, in line with other established models such as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. The use of a tariff-based system delivers consistent, equitable lump sum awards for similar injuries. This is in addition to the monthly tax-free, index-linked Guaranteed Income Payment (GIF) which is paid for life upon discharge to those more seriously injured. The GIF is not capped and it can amount to many hundreds of thousands of pounds over a lifetime.

We recognise that there have been concerns about the use of balance of probabilities as the standard of proof for the AFCS. This is the accepted approach in other Schemes and in the civil courts and in no way removes the onus on the Department to release any records that it holds relevant to the circumstances of an injury. We have seen no evidence to indicate that the current burden and standard of proof are preventing individuals whose injury is due to Service from receiving compensation. The position is similar with regard to time limits where, contrary to some media reporting, claimants have 5 years to submit claims as compared to 3 years in civil litigation cases. There is also provision to extend the time limits for claiming for certain late onset illnesses.

The AFCS is a modern scheme based on best practice, but when it was being developed, it was not envisaged that we would be seeing severe multiple injury cases of the type that are now unfortunately occurring. We have reviewed the rules that apply in cases where an individual suffers more than one injury in a single incident and have increased the lump sum benefits for those with the most serious multiple injuries (tariffs 1-4). This means that those who qualify for 100 per cent. of the GIF (the seriously injured) now receive 100 per cent. of the tariff value for all injuries sustained in a single incident, up to the maximum lump sum award of £285,000. This change to the Scheme's multiple injuries rules is specifically designed to reinforce the focus of resources on the most seriously injured, and has the full support of the Service Chiefs of Staff.

The Government is clear that medical support to Service personnel on operations is vital; there is no question of UK forces deploying without appropriate support. Before the mid-1990s, our dedicated military hospitals provided the core for training our medical services. But it had become clear by that date that, with the reductions in the size of our Armed Forces, the through-put of military patients provided neither the volume nor the range of cases essential to train our medical personnel for essential operational roles. Our medical personnel need the level of exposure that can only be provided in a large NHS hospital where military through-put is supplemented by civilian cases.

The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham represents the very best of the NHS. Its clinical excellence is widely recognised and its military-managed ward is now operational, which helps Service patients feel part of the military family whilst in hospital. Selly Oak has been widely praised, with the head of the Army, Chief of General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt, saying that "there is nowhere better". It will be replaced in 2010 by a new-build hospital which will treat Service personnel in wards that take further forward our military-managed concept.

The Government fully recognises that it also has the responsibility for meeting the needs of veterans injured as a result of their service, or their widows in the case of death. It does so through top class resettlement, seamless medical transition to the NHS, generous pensions and compensation as well as free welfare support and advice. The Government will continue to honour this commitment but ex-Service organisations have long been regarded as an important additional source of welfare and the Government welcomes the work that is done together in partnership - each offering what it is best able to provide.

It is our policy that mental health issues should be properly recognised and appropriately handled and that every effort should be made to reduce the stigma associated with them. We have measures in place to increase awareness at all levels and to mitigate the development of PTSD and other stress-related disorders among Service personnel: these include pre-and post-deployment briefing and the availability of support, assessment and (if required) treatment, both during and after deployments. For cases where these preventive measures do not succeed, expert treatment is provided, in line with recognised best practice; this is focused on recovery and rehabilitation. The families of returning personnel are also offered advice to alert them to the possible after-effects of an operational deployment.

Veterans receive good treatment from their GPs but we recognise that many health professionals have limited experience of dealing with ex-Service personnel who have mental health symptoms arising from their Service experience.

Officials from the MOD and the UK Health Departments have therefore been working together to develop a new community-based mental health service. The first of six regional pilots was launched last November and the other pilots at sites across the UK will follow over the next few months. It is intended that the mental health pilots will run for 2 years ahead of evaluation and nationwide roll out. The service is designed to provide regional networks of culturally sensitive expertise in military mental health to support NHS health professionals.

To cover the interim period in other areas, we announced in the summer the expansion of our Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St Thomas' Hospital, London, to include assessment of veterans with mental health symptoms with operational service since 1982. The clinician in charge of MAP, Dr Ian Palmer served as a military medical officer and is a consultant psychiatrist; he is therefore well qualified to provide this service.

Finally, under the War Pensions Scheme, the Department funds War Pensioners undergoing "remedial treatment" at Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society ("Combat Stress") homes. Founded in 1919, the Society is a respected charity which specialises in helping ex-Service personnel suffering from mental disabilities. MOD gave Combat Stress £2.5 million in fees in 2006-07 and last year agreed to a phased increase in the fees, which rose to 45 per cent. from 1 January 2008, to enable them to enhance their capability to treat veterans.

The Government announced in November 2007 that the provision of priority medical examination and treatment, subject to clinical need, would be extended to all veterans whose conditions are assessed by their GPs as being due to service. This provision has also been adopted in Scotland and Wales. We are working with UK Health Departments and veterans' organisations to review existing communication arrangements and reinforce existing advice to ensure that priority medical treatment is properly understood by NHS health professionals and veterans nationwide.

With respect to Service fatalities, we provide comprehensive welfare and pension arrangements; but we recognise the understandable wish of families to know what happened to their loved ones and the key part that inquests have to play here. We recognise that there are concerns both about the support given to families with respect to inquests and about the long timescale for some of them.

Inquests are designed to be non-adversarial and as such, legal representation is not usually necessary. If families wish to appoint a solicitor to represent them, they can do so; however, Legal Aid is not normally available for representation at an Inquest, other than in exceptional circumstances, assessed by the Legal Services Commission. While in a small number of cases the MOD will have legal representation, this is normally when potentially complex issues could arise and MOD Counsel can assist the court to elicit as clear and full an understanding as possible of what took place.

The timing of inquests is a matter for the individual coroner. The Ministry of Justice has policy responsibility for the coroners who are appointed and paid for by local authorities. However, we recognise that the MOD has a role, for example with respect to the provision of evidence. To ensure that there are no unnecessary delays in responding to the coroner's requests which would delay the start of the inquest, we have therefore established a dedicated team in MOD to improve our liaison with local coroners. We also now provide travel, accommodation and subsistence payments for two members of the family to attend pre-inquest hearings as well as for the inquest itself.

To avoid backlogs of inquests, extra resources have been made available to both the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire coroners. Those extra resources, and recent policy changes, have made significant improvements. Some 75 inquests were completed in 2007, which is more than were completed in the previous five years together. However, the need to investigate thoroughly the circumstances of the deaths will inevitably mean that inquests continue to take time.

More generally, we welcome the debate about the obligations owed by the Nation to its Armed Forces that the Royal British Legion campaign has encouraged. For our part, we have announced a cross-Government Personnel Command Paper for which we are consulting widely internally and externally, including with Service and ex-Service organisations such as the Royal British Legion. Due to be published later this year, it will outline the steps taken so far and future initiatives to ensure proper support to Service personnel their families and veterans from across Government,.

In parallel, we commissioned a study into how the nation can better recognise its Armed Forces. The study, led by Quentin Davies MP and published on 19th May, considered ways in which we might improve the nation's understanding and appreciation of the Armed Forces; we are studying the report's findings.

Although the Government has a particular responsibility for ensuring that the Military Covenant is honoured, it is also a matter for the Nation as a whole. In particular, there is a wider issue about what more individuals and local communities should be doing to demonstrate their support for the Armed Forces and their appreciation of what they are achieving in very difficult circumstances in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Petitions

Monday 2 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Brighton)

The Petition of those affected by the closure of the Elm Grove Post Office in Brighton,

Declares that they believe that the Post Office provides an invaluable and local service to local residents, many of them older people and young families who need the many essential services provided by the Post Office close at hand. If the Government truly believes in building sustainable communities, it will withdraw this and other Post Office closure proposals.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make representations to the Post Office Ltd. to withdraw its closure proposals for the Post Office at Elm Grove, Brighton, which plays such an important part in the life of the local community.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by David Lepper, Official Report,* 11 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 272 .] [P000078]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they are determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and why they have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. This has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced confirmation of their decision, in May 2007, to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations (operated in partnership with other local services such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices) will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas. If successful, it could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Sussex finished on 24 December 2007 and Post Office Ltd announced final decisions on 29 January 2008. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that the Elm Grove Post Office is to close. POL have published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Sussex which will be available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography, rivers, mountains etc. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The review process for closure decisions, after the public consultation process, applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. There was an addition to the review process last November which caters for very difficult cases remaining unresolved after stage 3. Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Government are not in any way constraining sub-postmasters. Sub-postmasters and mistresses, who own and operate 97 per cent. of the post office network, are private business people and contracted as agents on behalf of POL. As such, they are free to develop their associated retail business and to enter into contracts with anyone they choose, as long as the products provided are not in direct competition with key Post Office products.

The Government cannot ignore the fact that many people now want to access services in different ways, (using direct debits, ATMs, and the phone and the Internet). Government Departments must live within their financial constraints and it is only right that they ensure value for money in their delivery of services. We want the network to be autonomous and become the providers of choice and not of obligation.

Post Office Closures (Cumbria)

The Petition of those concerned about Post Office closures in Cumbria,

Declares that they give their full support to Flookburgh, Hallgarth, Heathwaite, Grasmere, Endmoor, Burneside, Beetham, Dent, Backbarrow, Burton in Kendal, Rinkfield, Lindale, Levens, Kents Bank, Storth, Hawkshead, Hutton Roof, as these are an integral part of the local community and to lose them would be a loss to all of them.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, to instruct the Post Office Ltd as it conducts its review of Post Office branches, to keep these Post Offices open; and further urges the Government to stop the unnecessary Post Office closure programme, and instead free business from restrictive regulation, invest in the future of the network and stop removing government business to safeguard our Post Offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tim Farron, Official Report,* 17 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 717.]

[P000141]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they have determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and why they have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. This has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced confirmation of their decision, in May 2007, to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations (operating in partnership with other local services such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices) will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas. If successful, it could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme is scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Cumbria started on 18 March and will finish on 27 May. POL is expected to announce final decisions on 18 June and the POL decision document will be available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by the Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography, rivers, mountains etc. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The review process for closure decisions, after the public consultation process, applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for thebranch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. There was an addition to the review process last November which caters for very difficult cases remaining unresolved after stage 3. Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Government are not in any way constraining sub-postmasters. Sub-postmasters and mistresses, who own and operate 97 per cent. of the post office network, are private business people and contracted as agents on behalf of POL. As such, they are free to develop their associated retail business and to enter into contracts with anyone they choose, as long as the products provided are not in direct competition with key Post Office products.

The Government cannot ignore the fact that many people now want to access services in different ways, (using direct debits, ATMs, and the phone and the Internet). Government Departments must live within their financial constraints and it is only right that they ensure value for money in their delivery of services. We want the network to be autonomous and become the providers of choice and not of obligation.

Post Office Closures (Taunton)

The Petition of residents of Taunton constituency and others,

Declares that the government are proposing to shut 2,500 Post Offices which represents 1-in-5 of the present total. This will hit local communities in Somerset hard.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to save our vital Post Offices which offer an essential service to communities across Taunton constituency.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Jeremy Browne, Official Report,* 6 February 2008; Vol. 1088 c. 471 .] [P000119]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Bristol and Somerset began on 26 February 2008 and is expected to conclude on 7 May 2008.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The review process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision; or
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> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of residents of the Taunton constituency and others,

Declares that the Post Office is proposing to close seven Post Offices in Taunton Deane, including Shuttern, West Monkton, Bradford-on-Tone, West Buckland, Kingston St Mary, Churchinford and Lydeard St Lawrence, all of which constitute a vital service to the residents of Taunton Deane, and whose closure will be extremely damaging to the fabric of the County of Somerset and the well-being of its communities in social, economic and environmental terms; that these Post Offices provide a lifeline for many vulnerable or disadvantaged people, and are particularly valued by pensioners and those without private transport; and that their proposed closure will risk or precipitate the closure of village shops in Somerset.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reverse the Post Office's proposed Network Change Programme in Taunton Deane.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Jeremy Browne, Official Report,* 28 April 2008; Vol. 475, c. 138 .] [P000179]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Bristol and Somerset finished on 7 May and POL will announce its final decisions on 29 May, which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange. POL have proposed an outreach service for Churchinford and Lydeard St Lawrence and closure of Shuttern, West Monkton, Bradford-on-Tone, West Buckland and Kingston St Mary. Final decisions on the branches will be communicated by POL.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (West Sussex)

The Petition of Post Office Users of Worthing and Adur,

Declares that the closures proposed by the Post Office Ltd (POL) to nine post offices located in Worthing and Adur in West Sussex, which come on top of previous substantial closures and are the most severe changes suggested in the whole of Sussex, are not in the best interests of local residents many of whom are elderly and are unable to travel the increased long distances that closures entail, local shops rely on Post Offices to encourage local business or indeed the local community as a whole which already experiences long queues for access to Post Offices.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges Her Majesty's Government, as a matter of urgent public importance, to instruct the Royal Mail Group to suspend this closure programme and redifine the criteria on which closures are being proposed with regard to the hardship it will cause communities with high levels of elderly people and deprivation and poor public transport links in particular.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tim Loughton, Official Report,* 17 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 675 .] [P000087]

The Petition of Post Office Users of Worthing and Adur,

Declares that the closures proposed by the Post Office Ltd (POL) to nine post offices located in Worthing and Adur in West Sussex, which come on top of previous substantial closures and are the most severe changes suggested in the whole of Sussex, are not in the best interests of local residents many of whom are elderly and are unable to travel the increased long distances that closures entail, local shops rely on Post Offices to encourage local business or indeed the local community as a whole which already experiences long queues for access to Post Offices.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges Her Majesty's Government, as a matter of urgent public importance, to instruct the Royal Mail Group to suspend this closure programme and redifine the criteria on which closures are being proposed with regard to the hardship it will cause communities with high levels of elderly people and deprivation and poor public transport links in particular.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Peter Bottomley, Official Report,* 17 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 5P .] [P000099]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October 2007 and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Sussex finished on 24 December 2007 and POL announced its final decisions on 31 January. Post Office Ltd has decided to retain 236 branches and proceed with the closure of 41. A further eight branches are subject to further review by Postwatch and decisions on those will be communicated in due course. An Outreach service will replace two branches. POL have published their decisions in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Sussex which is available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

In the decision booklet POL have confirmed the closure of nine branches in the Adur and Worthington Council Districts:

1. Bowness Avenue; 2. The Parade; 3. Downlands; 4. Old Shoreham; 5. North Lancing; 6. South Lancing; 7. West Beach; 8. Heene Road; 9. The Strand;

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with three stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Government is not in any way constraining sub-postmasters. Sub-postmasters and mistresses, who own and operate 97 per cent. of the post office network, are private business people and contracted as agents on behalf of POL. As such, they are free to develop their associated retail business and to enter into contracts with anyone they choose, as long as the products provided are not in direct competition with key Post Office products.

Government cannot ignore the fact that many people now want to access services in different ways, (using direct debits, ATMs, and the phone and the Internet). Government Departments must live within their financial constraints and it is only right that they ensure value for money in their delivery of services. We want the network to be autonomous and become the providers of choice and not of obligation.

HEALTH

Development and Healthcare (Hampshire)

The Humble Petition of Mr Alan Scard and others,

Sheweth,

That Gosport Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council and the Haslar Task Force have proposals for the future use of the Haslar site and have urged that ways be found to utilise the site for the provision of healthcare services and treatment in Gosport, Fareham and the surrounding areas.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House shall urge the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Health and all other relevant bodies to promote this particular proposal.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Peter Viggers, Official Report,* 12 May 2008; Vol. 475, c. 1169 .] [P000189]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

This is a matter for the local National Health Service to now take forward the plans to implement the planned changes and I would urge the relevant NHS organisations and the local community to work together in order to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

The Petition of residents of the United Kingdom,

Declares that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (2007) proposes to endorse the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos in the laboratory; the widening of the scope for experiments on human embryos, and the creation of human embryos for other purposes without regard for the welfare and status of such embryos.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons vote against the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, and urges the Government to change its policy towards endorsing the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos in the laboratory; the widening of the scope for experiments on human embryos, and the creation of human embryos for other purposes without regard for the welfare and status of such embryos.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Burrowes, Official Report,* 12 May 2008; Vol. 475, c. 1170 .]
[P000190]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Health:

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill will ensure that human admixed embryos (defined in clause 4 of the Bill) are within the scope of statutory regulation and their creation, keeping and use allowed only for projects of research subject to the licensing decisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and the limits and controls (including a prohibition on the development of such embryos beyond 14 days) contained in legislation. The House of Commons voted on Monday 19 May to reject amendments to the Bill that would have altered this position.

Petitions

Tuesday 3 June 2008

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Pensioner Travel (Kent)

The Petition of pensioners and disabled people of Sheppey and others of like disposition,

Declares that the start time of free bus travel for pensioners and disabled persons has been changed from 9.00 am to later, and that this causes serious inconvenience to pensioners and disabled people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to change the start time of free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled back to 9.00 am.

And the Petitioners remain, etc., [P000208]

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Chorley)

The Petition of residents of Chorley and others,

Declares that Bolton Street Post Office provides an essential service to the local community and the proposed closure will be a serious loss to residents within the locality.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to review its proposed closure of Bolton Street Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Lindsay Hoyle, Official Report,* 27 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1207.] [P000133]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested a total of £2 billion since 1999. This has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced (in May 2007) confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Lancashire and Fylde with Southport finished on 3 March 2008. POL announced final decisions on 1 April, which is available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When POL draws up its implementation plans, it takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc).

POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The review process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the issues are reviewed by Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, who will reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Kettering)

The Humble Petition of Cllr Larry Henson and others of like disposition,

Sheweth

That Post Office Ltd. proposes to close the Hawthorn Road Post Office in Kettering, which is a long-standing, popular and profitable local Post Office branch used by thousands of local people, many of whom are elderly, young mothers with children and those with disabilities, who would find it inconvenient and difficult to reach any other branch of the Post Office.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges Her Majesty's Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to call upon Post Office Ltd. to reconsider its closure proposals and ensure that the Hawthorn Road Post Office in Kettering remains open and part of the national Post Office network.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Philip Hollobone, Official Report,* 7 January 2008; Vol. 128, c. 470.] [P000101]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested a total of £2 billion since 1999. For example, this has paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced confirmation in May 2007 of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. These will operate in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches, or in mobile post offices. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans. These are based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland finished on 10 January and POL announced its final decisions on 1 February. The decisions are available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme, POL has confirmed that the Hawthorn Road Post Office branch is to close.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, it takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access (such as rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Knaresborough)

The Petition of residents, employees in and visitors to the ancient town of Knaresborough and all those seriously concerned about the decision of the Post Office to review the future of Aspin Lane Sub Post Office, 61 Aspin Lane, Knaresborough HG5 8EX.

Declares the importance of this Sub Post Office to thousands of people living, working in and visiting Aspin district of Knaresborogh, and the surrounding areas including the villages of Goldsborough and Flaxby, including the more elderly and disabled; recalls that should this Sub Post Office close there would be only one Sub Post Office serving the whole of Knaresborough and surrounding areas; and reminds Members of Parliament of the number of closures of local sub Post Offices in the Knaresborough area over recent years.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory reform to make clear to the Post Office the importance of this office continuing as a Sub Post Office, the retention of a second Sub Post Office to serve Knaresborough and the benefit of withdrawing as soon as possible any proposals which put at risk any of the existing services provided from this Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Phil Willis, Official Report,* 1 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 737.] [P000164]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network that allows people to have reasonable access across the whole country and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. This investment has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced confirmation of its decision (in May 2007) to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as in pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for North Yorkshire with Yorkshire East and Keighley finished on 17 January 2008. POL announced their final decisions on 8 February, which is available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petitions

Wednesday 4 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Benfleet Rail Station Facilities

The Petition of Wendy Daines, residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that the café of Benfleet Station gives a good service and should be retained by c2c in its current format, and that toilet facilities should be provided on the London bound platform for the 3000 plus passengers who use the station each day

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons implores the Government to press c2c to maintain the facilities in their current state and to add appropriate toilet facilities to the London bound platform

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report, 14 May 2008; Vol. 475, c. 1509.]*

[P000194]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Benfleet Station has an annual average footfall approaching 3,000,000 passengers and is a popular station for commuters, offering a main bus interchange, links to London Fenchurch Street, Shoeburyness and is the closest station to Canvey Island. c2c Rail Limited, owned by National Express Group Plc, is the Station Facility Owner and as such is responsible for station facilities within the station boundary.

In accordance with the Station Lease Agreement and Franchise Agreement c2c have an obligation to maintain certain aspects of the station's fabric and facilities in their current state. In addition over the past year c2c have completed over £475,000 worth of improvement projects at Benfleet station, which included new automatic doors, a new ramp, ticket office refurbishment and cycle security.

The toilet facilities have been enhanced in the last year, although there are no future plans to add or relocate toilet facilities.

All commercial contracts applicable to the station remain the responsibility of c2c Rail Ltd.

Officials have advised that c2c are in contact with Wendy Daines the organiser of the petition.

Road Safety (Hertfordshire)

The Petition of those concerned about the safety of Lower Road Bridge in Nash Mills,

Declares that a safety crossing and traffic calming system is urgently needed for the Lower Road bridge in Nash Mills; that the Victorian bridge has no footpath or alternative safe route being designed for horse and carriages rather than 40 tonne lorries; that a local traffic survey found that on 24th October 2007 between 2pm and 5pm there were 2217 movements through the bridge including HGV lorries, buses, vans, cars, motorbikes and pedestrians; that a large proportion of the pedestrians crossing the bridge are children; that 50 children live in the 150 dwellings in what is known as "no mans land" (Lower Rd, Hyde Lane and Woodlands Rd) and have to cross the bridge to access the local park; that further planned developments nearby (residential and business) are likely to exacerbate the problem on this bridge which has three junctions on its south side; and that if the Government is encouraging children to walk to school it should ensure the environment for them to do so is a safe one.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities, Local Government and the Regions to instruct the local authority to look into solutions to the problem which should include the introduction of pedestrian lights; reducing the height restriction on the bridge to 11 ft 4; adding a footpath and sensor light; painting the inside of the bridge white and lighting it 24hrs a day; putting a speed camera in the Lower rd on the bend; providing islands to assist pedestrians in crossing the road and to consult further with the local community to ensure everybody's safety.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mike Penning, Official Report,* 7 May 2008; Vol. 475, c. 814.]

[P000171]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding this location. As the road concerned is a local road which is the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council, it is the County Council's responsibility to assess the problems which are identified at this location and to propose and implement solutions. The Secretary of State has allocated funding to Hertfordshire County Council to allow it to deliver its Local Transport Plan and it is the responsibility of the County Council to identify its programme for spending that funding. The Secretary of State also observes that officers from Hertfordshire County Council have attended meetings and site visits with local residents who have supplied comprehensive information detailing their concerns for this section of road.

It is also observed that additionally some funds are available from Section 106 funding from nearby developments which will help to fund any proposed work which emerges from an options report which is being prepared to investigate the matters raised. There is a need to prioritise the work required. As part of the feasibility work the County Council will be collecting data on traffic flow and speeds.

The County Council is also discussing with Network Rail issues identified by the petitioners, such as the painting and lighting. While these could be implemented relatively quickly, any other scheme could take two years to design and implement and it will be for the County Council to weigh up the benefits from this scheme against other Local Transport Plan priorities.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (West London)

The Humble Petition of local residents of Little Venice, Maida Vale and neighbouring areas,

Sheweth,

That Formosa Street Post Office is of great importance to the local community and economy.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to reject proposals by Post Office Ltd to withdraw services from the Formosa Street Post Office, in recognition of its importance to the local community and economy, and the absence of suitable alternatives.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Ms Karen Buck, Official Report,* 1 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 737.] [P000157]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London finished on the 2 April and POL will announce final decisions in due course, which will be available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

- POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
- evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petitions

Thursday 5 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Kent)

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Brampton Road Post Office,

Declares that Brampton Road Post Office should remain open.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to call upon Post Office Ltd to abandon its plans to close the Post Office at 301-303 Brampton Road.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Evennett, Official Report,* 2 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 889.] [P000162]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London finished on 2 April and POL will announce final decisions in due course, which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with three stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Kingston and Surbiton)

The Petition of local residents in constituency of Kingston and Surbiton.

Declares that Post Offices on Surbiton Road, Hook Rise South, Burlington Road, and at Norbiton Common and Plough Green are of great importance to the local community and economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reject proposals by Post Office Ltd to withdraw services from the these Post Offices, in recognition of their importance to the local community and economy, and the absence of suitable alternatives.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.,—*[Presented by Mr. Edward Davey, Official Report, 3 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 1020.]* [P000170]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested a total of £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In May 2007, in its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 41 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London finished on 2 April and POL will announce final decisions in due course, which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, it takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL, in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with three stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage, the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (West London)

The Humble Petition of local residents of Harrow Road, Queen's Park and neighbouring areas,

Sheweth,

That Harrow Road Post Office is of great importance to the local community and economy.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to reject proposals by Post Office Ltd to withdraw services from the Harrow Road Post Office, in recognition of its importance to the local community and economy, and the absence of suitable alternatives.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Ms Karen Buck, Official Report, 1 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 738.]* [P000156]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested a total of £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In May 2007, in its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London finished on 2 April and

POL will announce final decisions in due course, which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, it takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL, in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with three stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage, the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

HEALTH

Time Limit for Abortion

The Petition of those concerned about the potential changes to the time limit for abortion,

Declares that that 200,000 abortions a year in Britain is far too many.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons support amendments to the Abortion Act which will reduce substantially the 24 week upper time limit, end discriminatory abortion of the disabled up until birth, and provide balanced evidence-based information, independently of the abortion service, that gives women a properly informed choice, along with the offer of counselling; further requests that the House of Commons reject proposed amendments seeking to liberalise the abortion law further such as ending the requirement for two doctors' signatures, allowing nurse-led medical abortion in GP surgeries with completion at home, barring pro-life doctors from seeing women with unplanned pregnancies and extending the Abortion Act to Northern Ireland.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Edward Leigh, Official Report,* 20 May 2008; Vol. 476, c. 292.] [P000198]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The House of Commons considered these issues on the 20th May 2008 when amendments were laid to the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Bill. The amendments were either withdrawn or rejected by a large majority, indicating that the House believes that the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, does not require further amendment at this point.

If Members choose to lay further amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill on abortion, they will be debated through due Parliamentary process and be subject to a free vote as has always been the case.

Petitions

Friday 6 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Bristol)

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Derby Road Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Derby Road Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.,—*[Presented by Stephen Williams, Official Report,* 3 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 1019.] [P000167]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Bristol and Somerset started on 26 February and POL will announce final decisions which will be available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

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The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Ilford North)

The Petition of residents of Ilford, North and others,

Declares that we, the undersigned, being local residents, deplore the consideration being given to the closure of three of our local Post Office branches.

These closures will be a serious blow for the elderly and vulnerable people who will be faced with longer journeys to obtain services they need. It will also mean longer queues at the branches that remain.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons takes a note of their very strong objection to the loss of these vital services and urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep the Spurway Parade Woodford Avenue, the Fencepiece Road and the New North Road branches open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Lee Scott, Official Report,* 2 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 11P.] [P000168]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since

1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 41 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London finished on 2 April and POL will announce final decisions in due course, which will be available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Surrey)

The Petition of Carshalton and Wallington residents,

Declares their opposition to the Government's programme of Post Office closures, in particular the proposed closure of Post Offices at Seymour Rd, Bishopsford Road, Wrythe Lane, Carshalton Road, and Gander Green Lane.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to find alternative business for Post Offices to enable them to continue providing an invaluable service to residents, particularly those who are elderly or have a disability.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.,—*[Presented by Tom Brake, Official Report,* 2 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 890.] [P000165]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 41 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London finished on 2 April and POL propose to announce final decisions on 13 May 2008. POL will announce final decisions in due course, which will be available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Teesside)

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Oxbridge Lane Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Oxbridge Lane Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.,—*[Presented by Ms Dari Taylor, Official Report,* 1 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 739.]

[P000163]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Cleveland, South Durham and Richmond finished on 26 March and POL propose to announce final decisions on 13 May 2008. POL will publish their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Cleveland, South Durham and Richmond which will be available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 May 2008

WALES

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205852]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In the last three years, my Department has held two written consultations. The first consultation in 2005, on the Better Governance of Wales White Paper, was completed at a cost of £11,880.38. For the second consultation run in 2007, relating to the Government's 2007 Draft Legislative Programme, the cost to my office was £69.

My office has not held any consultation road shows or stakeholder focus groups in the last three years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* statutory rules of Northern Ireland have been (i) made and (ii) revoked by his Department since 1997. [205514]

Mr. Woodward: Since 1997 the Northern Ireland Office has made:

199 Orders in Council;

155 UK statutory instruments which apply exclusively or primarily to Northern Ireland; and

5,702 statutory rules.

These figures include Orders in Council, statutory instruments and statutory rules made on behalf of the Northern Ireland Departments during periods of Direct Rule.

The information sought in respect of the statutory instruments and rules which have been revoked by the Department is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

PRIME MINISTER

Legislation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed his Government's draft legislative programme with Tony Blair. [206617]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave at my monthly press conference on 15 May 2008. A transcript is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15580.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what payments the Disability Rights Commission made to *(a)* Politics International Ltd, *(b)* Hanover Communications and *(c)* Positif Politics Ltd in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202268]

Barbara Follett: The Disability Rights Commission has made the following payments:

(a) Politics International—paid £1,410.00 on 24 July 2006 for a Politics International Course for a member of staff.

(b) Hanover Communications—no payments made.

(c) Positif Politics Ltd.—paid £587.50 on 24 May 2007 for information services in respect of the Welsh Assembly Election 2007.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff working for the Government Equalities Office are based at 5th Floor, Eland House, Bressenden Place. [201420]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office has 82 staff. Of these 74 are based on the fifth floor in Eland House and eight Private Office and press staff work alongside the two GEO Ministers in Cabinet Office accommodation in Whitehall and in offices in Parliament.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in the Government Equalities Office staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193542]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment as a separate Department on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has spent £7,256 on overnight accommodation for civil servants, special advisers and Ministers, in Great Britain and overseas. Of this some £90 is attributable to overnight accommodation for the Minister's special adviser and some £100 to the Minister, both costs being incurred on GEO business in Edinburgh.

Equality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 423W, on equality legislation, what assessment she has made of the consultation process's compliance with Cabinet Office guidelines on consultation, with particular regard to the publication of responses; and if she will make a statement. [206619]

Barbara Follett: The formal Government response to the consultation including a summary of the responses received is being drawn up for publication in compliance with the Cabinet Office guidelines.

Females: Marriage

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 262W, on females: marriage, if she will make an assessment of the financial effect on women of changing their surname on marriage, with particular reference to charges for amending official documents. [206618]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office currently does not have plans to assess the financial cost of women changing their surnames on marriage.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the value was of each contract awarded by the Government Equalities Office to Karian and Box since its establishment. [199637]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment, the Government Equalities Office has not awarded any contracts to Karian and Box.

OLYMPICS

London 2012: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are employed by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, broken down by pay band. [205386]

Tessa Jowell: Diversity and equality were key components of the bid for London 2012. Although it is a private company which funds itself from sales of sponsorship, merchandise, ticketing and broadcasting rights, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) nevertheless recognises its high-profile position within the overall London 2012 project. It has implemented a strong diversity and inclusion policy on its recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers that covers gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age. Five of the 11 members of LOCOG's Management Committee, as published on its website, are women.

LOCOG will shortly publish its Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and will send a copy of this to the House of Commons Library. LOCOG will regularly monitor and report on its performance against the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority, broken down by pay band. [205387]

Tessa Jowell: As of 30 April 2008, the Olympic Delivery Authority is employing 195 members of staff. This consists of permanent staff, fixed term contract staff, and secondments. The breakdown against salary bands is as follows:

Band	*Role*	*Number*	*Female*	*Male*
NA	CEO	1	0	1
5	Directors	7	1	6
4	Heads of Function	28	9	19
3	Managers/Technical Professionals	79	22	57
2	Executives/Officers	32	20	12
1	Projects/Administrative Support	47	40	7
Total		194	92	102

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps have been taken to award 2012 London Olympic Games contracts to companies outside London. [206407]

Tessa Jowell: The London 2012 Business Network has been established to spread opportunities in the London 2012 supply chains to businesses across the country. CompeteFor is a key component of this matching buyers with suppliers, and throughout this process businesses are signposted to business support services. The ODA has visited every nation and region of the UK to engage businesses in the opportunities generated by the Games. The opportunities are there, the network is in place, so as MPs we should do everything we can to ensure businesses in our constituencies sign up and get the support they need to win contracts.

This is not the only way in which the nations and regions of the UK can benefit economically from the Games. There will be business generated outside of the London 2012 supply chains, such as in the tourism and transport industries. The Games also give us the opportunity to develop our inward investment and export potential.

Olympic Games 2012: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many Welsh companies or organisations have bid unsuccessfully for contracts through the Olympic Delivery Authority. [203165]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 1 May 2008]*: Two Welsh businesses that responded to invitations to tender for contracts above the Official Journal of the European Union threshold (according to EU legislation, all contracts from the public sector which are valued above a certain threshold must be published in the Official Journal of the European Union) have not been awarded contracts.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Northampton North of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1345W, on contracts: companies outside London, how many and what proportion of the contracts awarded were awarded to companies in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Gwent. [206639]

Tessa Jowell: To date, three contracts have been awarded to businesses and organisations registered in Wales; this represents less than 1 per cent. of the total. Of these, one contract has been awarded to the Office of National Statistics, registered in Gwent. The other two contracts were awarded to John Evans Photography and Strategy and Solution Limited, both registered in south Glamorgan. It is still very early days with the vast majority of supply chain contracts to be awarded, so there will be plenty of opportunities for Welsh businesses to get involved.

The London 2012 Business Network has been established to spread opportunities in the London 2012 supply chains to businesses across the country, opening up supply chains like no other Games before. The opportunities are there, we have the network in place, so as MPs we should do everything we can to ensure businesses in our constituencies sign up and get the support they need to win contracts.

Olympic Games: China

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* Government officials, *(c)* Olympics Delivery Agency staff and *(d)* London Organising Committee of Olympic Games members and staff will attend all, or part, of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games; and at what cost. [205719]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 May 2008]*: I will attend all of the Olympic Games. Four Ministers will attend for a part of the Games: the Prime Minister; the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport; the Minister for Sport and the Minister for Trade and Investment.

The number of Government officials attending has not yet been finalised, but they will include a private secretary and press officer support to the Ministers. There will also be a small number of officials who will be working to represent UK interests in Beijing, for example through trade opportunities and other events and six officials taking part in the official Olympic Observer Programme to learn lessons for staging the 2012 London Olympic Games. This will be the only opportunity to learn lessons from another summer Olympics before London 2012.

About 17 Olympic Delivery Authority staff are expected to attend. They will aim to learn important operational and logistical lessons to feed into planning for London 2012.

Full costs are not yet known for these visits—details are still being determined. We are working to ensure the best possible price.

There will be no cost to the public purse for London Organising Committee staff attending the Games. Numbers have not yet been finalised, but a significant proportion of LOCOG staff will attend. They will be seconded to the Beijing Organising Committee for about three months; will take part in the official Observer Programme; will take part in the closing ceremony; or will work in the media and operations centre. Again, this will be their last opportunity to learn from a summer Olympics before London 2012.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 7th May 2008, *Official Report*, column 831W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, whether armed forces personnel and Departmental staff are inspected for unauthorised items before departing from theatre. [205122]

Des Browne: Armed forces personnel and civilian staff employed by the Ministry of Defence are inspected for unauthorised items by Royal Military Police before departing from operational theatres.

Air Force: Military Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Royal Air Force last conducted humanitarian air drop operations; and in what circumstances. [206630]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The last time that the RAF, jointly with the Army, conducted dedicated humanitarian air drops was in April 1991 in Iraq.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Royal Air Force's capability is to conduct humanitarian air drop operations; and if he will make a statement. [206654]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Humanitarian air drops are conducted jointly by the Royal Air Force providing the aircraft and the Army loading the aircraft and delivering the load.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* 463L pallets and *(b)* other pallets used for airdrop operations, the Royal Air Force had in its inventory in each year since 2001, broken down by type. [206656]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Unlike commercial airlines, which use pallets, the Royal Air Force uses baseboards to load airdrop goods. Records for the number of baseboards held by the Royal Air Force for each year since 2001 are not held centrally.

Currently, we have 207 baseboards in store and it is estimated that there are in the order of 200 baseboards in use.

Armed Forces: Pay

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the procedure is for paying service personnel *(a)* posted overseas, *(b)* on active service and *(c)* in the UK. [206382]

Derek Twigg: All service personnel are paid to their nominated bank accounts through the joint personnel administration (JPA) system whether posted within the UK, overseas or on operations. Recruits provide their bank details on arrival at their initial training or reservists' units and payments to banks normally commence within three months of enlistment. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the individual service person to maintain their bank details on the JPA system, including initiating, through their human resource administration staff, payments to overseas bank accounts, when posted overseas. The JPA system also has the capacity to make payments by payable order and for unit administration staff, when required, to make payments in cash.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* target, *(b)* actual and *(c)* shortfall percentage against target of recruiting of each pinch point trade was in each year since 1997; [200951]

(2) what the outflow *(a)* rate and *(b)* number of each pinch point trade was in each year since 1997. [200953]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1704-8W.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the funding announced for stage 1 of the Future Rapid Effect System will affect funding available for future purchases of mine-protected vehicles. [205583]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD has recognised that there is an urgent need to address the risks faced by our soldiers on current operations. To address this need we are implementing a range of measures including the introduction of protected mobility equipment such as Mastiff, which has proved its value on operations, offering high levels of protection against mines and roadside bombs.

The procurement of protected mobility equipment is managed and funded entirely separately from the Future Rapid Effect System programme and will therefore not be affected.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what mine protection features the Piranha V vehicle will have; [205584]

(2) what additional capability will be afforded to the Army with phase 1 of the Future Rapid Effect System; [205586]

(3) whether the Piranha V will be designed to allow damaged parts to be unbolted and replaced after an explosive strike. [205588]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Piranha V vehicle hull is shaped to offer protection from the mine blast and the underside of the vehicle is reinforced with appliqué armour to offer additional protection to the crew.

Phase 1 of FRES, which I have interpreted as the utility vehicle (UV), will deliver a fleet of wheeled medium weight armoured vehicles with higher levels of deployability and survivability than our current in service lighter armoured vehicles can achieve, with the potential to grow its capability as new technology becomes available. The UV fleet will cover the protected mobility, command and control, medical, repair and recovery and driver training roles. Other elements of the utility fleet to be delivered in later planned increments include specialist communications, electronic warfare and sensor vehicles.

The FRES utility vehicle will be designed for a modular armour solution. This will allow damaged sections to be unbolted and replaced.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what types of warfare the Future Rapid Effect System medium weight capability will be suitable. [205585]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1402W, which details the type of warfare for which the FRES medium weight capability will be suitable.

Departmental Empty Property

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many empty properties his Department owns, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency. [197099]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate of around 240,000 under continual review to ensure that it is no larger than is required for defence purposes. Details of all MOD properties that are currently void (not in use for their intended purpose) are not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Void stock includes properties being held for planned moves of Service Units, sale or release, modernisation or demolition.

Records are held of void Service Family Accommodation properties (SFA) in Great Britain (GB). The majority of SFA in England and Wales are owned by Annington Homes Ltd and leased to this Department until we no longer require them.

It is a key departmental priority to reduce the number of voids and work is in hand to do this. Since March 2007, the number of void SFA properties worldwide has reduced from 13,338 to some 12,240.

Although records of void SFA are not held by constituency, they are listed by local parish. I have placed the list of void properties by local parish in the Library of the House.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [204769]

Derek Twigg: No information is held for statutory instruments made by MOD Ministers in 1997 and only partial details are held for 1998. However, records show that 154 such statutory instruments have been registered since 1997.

The information requested about the number of instruments which have been revoked in the period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many weapons caches have been found in *(a)* Basra, *(b)* Maysan, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Al Muthanna in each year since 2003. [200962]

Des Browne: Data on weapons cache finds have only been recorded since 1 January 2004. The number of weapons cache finds by Multi National Forces in Basra, Maysan, Dhi Qar and Al Muthanna in each year since 2004 are as follows:

Finds of weapons caches	*Al Muthanna*	*Basra*	*Dhi Qar*	*Maysaan*	*Grand total*
2004	6	64	76	18	16
2005	5	46	50	27	128
2006	4	44	23	4	75
2007	1	15	2	4	22
2008	0	9	3	0	12

In addition, some 150 weapons caches were discovered in Basrah during April 2008[1] as part of the ongoing operations in the City led by the Iraqi Security Forces.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the anti-insurgency strategies being employed by British and United States forces in Iraq. [203680]

Des Browne: The coalition's strategy is to transfer security responsibility to the Iraqis so that they can take the lead in defeating the main threats to security and stability. Our assessment, reflected in the recent testimony given by Ambassador Crocker and General Petraeus to the US Congress, is that the strategy is working and significant progress has been made across Iraq in improving security, including in Basra as a result of the recent Iraqi-led operation Charge of the Knights. Coalition forces continue to provide support to the Government of Iraq and their security forces as they seek to extend and consolidate security and underpin it with political and economic progress.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many interpreters his Department employs in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and how much they cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [204559]

Des Browne: We currently employ 108 interpreters in Iraq and 316 interpreters in Afghanistan. The total cost paid to cover salary and overtime for April 2008 was around £92,510 in Iraq and around £175,840 in Afghanistan.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Mesopotamia Group has requested rotary wing air escort since the start of the ISAF Contracted Air Transport contract. [204569]

Des Browne: Mesopotamia Group has not requested rotary wing air escort since the start of the ISAF Contracted Air Transport contract.

Military Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what material handling equipment is available to his Department for humanitarian airdrop operations. [206655]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Should an aircraft carry out a humanitarian airdrop, the necessary resources, including material handling equipment, are available to complete the task.

Reserve Forces

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of participants in trips and functions under the SaBRE campaign came from *(a)* small, *(b)* medium and *(c)* large businesses in the last period for which figures are available. [204608]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under its 'Employers Abroad' scheme, SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers) arranges for employers of reservists, and other influential business and commercial figures, to visit their employees who are mobilised and serving on operations in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Available records, for the period from January 2006 to May 2008, show that places available to employers on UK briefing visits and 'Employers Abroad' visits were allocated as follows:

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[1] Up to 16 April 2008.

	Percentage
Small employers (1-49 employees)	5
Medium employers (50-249 employees)	9
Large employers (250 plus employees)	86

The 'Large employers' category covers representatives of focal organisations for over 200,000 small and medium sized enterprises, such as the Federation of Small Businesses, the British Chambers of Commerce, and the Trades Union Congress. SaBRE organises and assists in a great number of functions within the UK, many of which are not solely for employer support. It is not possible to ascertain how many invitations to these events go to small, medium or large enterprises.

Treaty of Lisbon: Foreign Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the legal status is of the declaration attached to the treaty of Lisbon which states that nothing in the treaties affects the existing powers of the member states to formulate and conduct their foreign policy. [191937]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) was established by the Maastricht treaty. Under the Lisbon treaty it will remain a common policy based on the general rule that decisions must be taken unanimously by the member states. As Article 1 (27) of the Lisbon treaty makes clear, the special nature of CFSP is safeguarded with its decision making arrangements different and separate from all other areas of EU policy.

The declarations on CFSP further express the political commitment of all 27 member states that foreign policy is the responsibility of the member states and that the treaty does not affect member states' ability to formulate and conduct their own foreign policy.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Protection: Seas and Oceans

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legal advice he has received on whether an environmental damage assessment is required in relation to fishing and related activities within the proposed offshore special area of conservation sites at *(a)* Braemar Pockmarks, *(b)* Scanner Pockmark, *(c)* North Norfolk sandbanks and Saturn Reef, *(d)* Haig Frais, *(e)* Stanton Banks, *(f)* Darwin Mounds and *(g)* Wyville Thomson Ridge. [204638]

Jonathan Shaw: The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (OMCRs) came into force on 21 August 2007 and provides for controls on certain activities that have an effect on important species and habitats in the offshore marine environment through a number of offences that aim to prevent environmentally damaging activities, and for the carrying out of appropriate assessments of plans or projects where required by Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the habitats directive).

Legal advice in drafting and implementing these regulations has been ongoing to determine how they might apply to fisheries and best meet the UK obligations under Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (the birds directive), the habitats directive and the common fisheries policy.

The UK has not yet submitted the sites mentioned to the European Commission to be considered for designation as marine Special Areas of Conservation. If and when they are submitted they will receive the full protection afforded by the OMCRs.

Fisheries: Environment Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what fishing and related activities took place in the proposed offshore special areas of conservation at *(a)* Braemar Pockmarks, *(b)* Scanner Pockmark, *(c)* North Norfolk sandbanks and Saturn reef, *(d)* Haig Frais, *(e)* Stanton Banks, *(f)* Darwin Mounds and *(g)* Wyville Thomson Ridge in the latest period for which information is available; how often fishing took place in each; which boats were identified; in which countries those boats were registered; what species were targeted in each; what catch techniques were used; and what the commercial value was of each catch. [203974]

Jonathan Shaw: The Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) is required to prepare conservation objectives and advice on operations as soon as practicable after sites are submitted to the European Commission. For each of the offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) subject to consultation in 2007-08, JNCC prepared draft documents to the best of its existing knowledge, in consultation with various Government Departments and agencies who hold such information.

JNCC intends to update its conservation objectives and advice on operations taking into account additional information received during the consultation process.

The following summarises all the information relating to fishing activity, which is available for each site in JNCC's draft conservation objectives and advice on Operations for each possible site:

Braemar Pockmarks

Information for 12 months (ending July 2007) from the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency's (SFPA) Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) database indicates that there is currently significant fishing activity within the proposed boundary of this site. A 2006 survey of the site by an energy supply company also identifies that there is significant trawling in the site. The Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) report that fishing in this area will include Nephrops trawling, seine netting, single boat demersal trawling, pair trawling and both single boat pelagic and pair pelagic trawling. SFF also indicate the data show that herring followed by haddock are the most important species with significant quantities of cod, monkfish, saithe and whiting. SFPA suggest it may be impossible to construct quantities data given the small size of the area.

Scanner Pockmark

Information for 12 months ending July 2007 from the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency's (SFPA) Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) database indicates that there is currently little fishing activity within the proposed boundary of this site. It is possible that this is because there is an obstruction in the area and this is under investigation. SFPA report that fishing in this area will generally be Nephrops (Norway lobster or 'scampi') trawling by Scottish vessels. There is also some Danish industrial fishing of pout and sand eel, and some pelagic UK, Danish and Swedish vessels targeting mackerel and herring. The SFF indicate that data show that there has been only one day of pelagic fishing in the past three years in the statistical square that the area lies in and that there is a significant number of days by vessels targeting whitefish using single boat demersal gear and demersal pair trawl. SFPA suggest it may be impossible to construct quantities data given the small size of the area.

North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef

This area is heavily commercially fished with mixed demersal fisheries and shellfisheries. The majority of beam trawlers are Dutch and Belgian operating around the banks and targeting sole, plaice and possibly cod, skate and rays. There are also some UK beam trawls and UK vessels using static fishing gear. There may be an occasional UK trawler operating in the area. While the area was popular with Grimsby based trawlers many years ago, the decline in that sector has meant that there has been little recorded activity by them in recent times. French stern trawlers work the area for whiting at certain times of the year (according to French fishing industry information).

Vessels targeting shellfish which are based on the coast from Caister to Weybourne, including the Cromer/Sheringham crab and lobster fleet, tend to work fairly close inshore and operate mainly on the inner sandbanks. However some of these vessels will venture further off shore. Wells based potting vessels in North Norfolk are more likely to operate further offshore and in the proposed SAC area. The offshore potters based in Grimsby, Bridlington and Scarborough are active throughout the general area. Some five UK long-liners can work the area, principally for cod, skate and dogfish, though the numbers have declined in recent years, with some of the vessels now concentrating on survey and guardship duties. Data from the Marine Fisheries Agency's Fishery Activity Database (FAD) show that the value of landings of fish caught within the boundary of the proposed site, in England by UK vessels, is £841,000 from beam trawls and £68,000 from other demersal towed gear.

Haig Fras

Fishing is known to take place within the site. Information from the Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA) indicates that the area is commercially fished in relation to mixed demersal fisheries, including hake and that there are the following activities:

> Netters: Haig Fras is well within range of the netting fleet based at Newlyn. The area is fished by all of the western based static gear netting vessels (12 in number) and all are members of the Cornish Fish Producers Organisation (CFPO). In some cases these vessels are believed to work directly on top of the proposed SAC area. French netters also appear to work in or near Haig Fras at times.
>
> Beam trawlers: There are a number of Newlyn based beam trawlers, probably less than 10, that work around this general area and possibly within part of the proposed SAC site at times. There may be some Belgium and Irish activity here as well, at certain times of the year.
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> Demersal trawlers: French stern trawlers fish quite widely in the general area around and possibly within Haig Fras for nephrops and demersal species (according to French fishing industry information). A couple of Anglo-Spanish trawlers may also work the area.
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> Long-liners: A couple of Anglo-Spanish vessels are known to work in the general area.
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> Data on UK landings in England from the Marine and Fisheries Agency show that the value of demersal fishing to UK vessels is about £230,000. There is also known to be French and Irish demersal trawling.

Stanton Banks

Information for 12 months ending July 2007 from the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency's (SFPA) Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) database indicates that there is currently significant fishing activity within the proposed boundary of this site, particularly to the north-west of the site. SFPA report that it is fished heavily by vessels based in west coast of Scotland. The site tends to be a seasonal fishery because of weather and as such provides a good fishing area for larger boats during summer months. The effort is nearly all demersal trawling. The main species targeted are Nephrops (Norway lobster or 'scampi'), haddock, hake and monkfish as well as various other species. The West of Scotland Fish Producers Organisation note that their vessels target nephrops and take by-catches of monk, megrim whiting, haddock and hake suing bottom trawls. In addition there is seasonal pelagic boat activity and significant crab fishing. Irish vessels (using both pelagic and demersal gear) also operate in this area; indeed part of the proposed site lies in Irish grey zone where UK-and Irish-claimed fishing limits overlap and there is an agreed system for enforcement. SFPA report that the industry are aware of coral in the area, and that fishermen make an effort to steer clear of it as it damages their nets.

Darwin Mounds

Mobile demersal gear is known to cause an impact to the reefs and has therefore been banned over the reef under the common fisheries policy.

Wyville Thomson Ridge

Information for 12 months ending July 2007 from the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency's (SFPA) Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) database indicates that there is currently significant fishing activity in the area. Generally the target species for demersal trawling are blueing, ling, greater fork beard and other associated deep sea species. These are targeted mostly by French (according to French fishing industry information), some UK (Scottish) vessels and possibly Spanish vessels. Given the areas rocky nature, it will generally be larger vessels. French pelagic trawlers also operate in this area. Because this site is adjacent to the recently agreed UK-Faeroese Median Line (S.I. 1999 No. 2031) there remains confusion as to the precise UK/Faeroese fishing limits in practice.

Nature Conservation

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements have been made for birds issued with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species transaction specific certificates but removed from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to be traced by the police for DNA testing when suspected of being wild-taken. [205799]

Joan Ruddock: The UK CITES Management Authority (UKMA) makes every effort to ascertain the legality of acquisition of a bird before issuing a Transaction Specific Certificate. However if information came to the attention of the UKMA after issuing a certificate which led it to doubt the veracity of the original application, it would trace the ownership via the name and address in Box 1 "holder", as the certificate is re-issued every time the bird is used on a commercial basis by a new keeper. Applications for certificates will also contain details of parent birds, if known.

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the 11 non-EU species proposed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee for inclusion in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 have existing captive populations in the UK; and what assessment he has made of the effects of including these species in Schedule 4 on the risk of wild birds being smuggled into the UK and their subsequent laundering. [205800]

Joan Ruddock: Of the 12 species originally proposed by the JNCC for listing on Schedule 4, nine are non-EU species. Animal Health has issued CITES permits for six species (red-browed amazon, red-tailed amazon, hyacinth macaw, blue-throated macaw, red vented/Philippine cockatoo and Bali starling) in the last 10 years, indicating that these species have been kept in captivity in the UK.

The EU ban on wild bird imports has meant that, other than birds imported for conservation programmes, only captive-bred birds from approved breeding establishments have been permitted for import into the EU. Any import of wild non-EU birds would be contrary to the ban and CITES regulations. I consider that these regulations maintain a satisfactory level of control on any trade in the nine species, and there is no evidence to suggest that these controls do not work.

I do not consider that the listing of the nine non-EU species on Schedule 4 in England would have any effect on any illegal take of these species that may occur from the wild in third countries.

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in ensuring that captive populations of species to be removed from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are DNA profiled; and what procedures will be put in place to enable such profiles to be used to determine the *(a)* legitimacy and *(b)* parentage of birds of such species in the future. [205801]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has no plans to carry out DNA testing on all birds that may be removed from schedule 4. The Department has no evidence to suggest that the population of birds currently listed on schedule 4 is other than from primarily legitimate sources. The cost of DNA testing the whole captive population would be prohibitively expensive and would not be justified by any possible enforcement or conservation benefit. Any DNA testing to be carried out by Animal Health will be based on a risk and intelligence-led approach.

Modern breeding techniques use artificial insemination from a variety of possible male donors. The movement, and death of many of the birds involved in this process means that any comprehensive testing scheme for all birds subject to registration would simply not be logistically possible.

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the revision of the criteria used to decide which species should be listed on schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [205802]

Joan Ruddock: The prohibition on the import of wild birds into the EU was extended in July 2007 and with this prohibition likely to remain in force for the foreseeable future, the situation in the commercial trade of wild birds has changed. My Department therefore revised the criteria for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) assessment of species to be listed on schedule 4. The list of species provided by the JNCC was considered in terms of the proportionality of the burden that registration of these species would place on keepers, balancing any conservation benefit that may arise from registration against the regulatory burden imposed by registration.

Waste Management: Enforcement

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much was spent on the *(a)* enforcement of legislation and *(b)* prosecution of offences relating to illegal waste activity in each of the last five years; [205703]

(2) how much was spent on the *(a)* enforcement and *(b)* prosecution of illegal waste activity in each of the last five years; and how much of this cost has been recovered through the courts. [206241]

Joan Ruddock: Flycapture, the national database of fly-tipping incidents records the amount spent by local authorities in England on the following enforcement actions:

(i) duty of care inspections;
(ii) fixed penalty notices;
(iii) formal cautions;
(iv) injunctions;
(v) investigations;
(vi) prosecutions; and
(vii) warning letters.

These data have only been available since the year 2006-07. Flycapture records enforcement action that has been carried out with the aim of preventing the illegal disposal of waste, or fly-tipping. It does not record data on all illegal waste activity. In 2006-07, local authorities spent around £24.6 million on enforcement. This figure is calculated using standard costings for different types of enforcement.

National data on how much local authorities have spent on enforcement and which has been recovered through the courts are not available.

Data from Flycapture are available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytippinq/flycapture-data.htm

Additionally, in recent years, the Environment Agency has typically spent approximately £14 million per annum on the enforcement and prosecution of illegal waste activity. This figure represents the full costs incurred by the Environment Agency and does not take into account any costs they may recover through the courts.

Costs recovered through the criminal courts, in respect of successful investigations and prosecutions, over the previous five years were as follows:

	£
2003	1,006,704
2004	641,030
2005	912,969
2006	685,141
2007	1,007,293

Recovered costs cover all cases that involve waste, breaches and incidents.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for his Department to undertake an impact assessment of amendments to Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [205798]

Joan Ruddock: My Department will publish an impact assessment to accompany any statutory instrument that may amend Schedule 4.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Debt Collection

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to provide safeguards in relation to the activity of bailiffs for people with mental health problems who are in debt. [205268]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

An enhanced and extended certification procedure for those enforcement agents who take control of goods, has been taken forward in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The Act provides for the future compulsory regulation of all enforcement agents who take control of goods, and who are not Crown employees, via an enhanced and extended certification process. There will be a training requirement that will include knowledge of how to deal appropriately with vulnerable debtors.

Having secured the legislation, further public consultation is required to develop the underpinning rules and regulations. A development plan is being completed during May 2008 that will contain a timetable for implementation, together with a list of issues to be consulted on.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what mechanisms are in place to inform people of their rights in relation to action being taken against them by bailiffs. [205269]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Bailiffs' powers currently stem from common law and numerous pieces of legislation resulting in an array of mechanisms depending on the type of debt or type of agent responsible for enforcement.

HMCS produce a leaflet, EX345 "About Bailiffs and Enforcement Officers", detailing who bailiff and enforcement officers are, how they recover money, the complaints procedure and where to find free and independent advice.

The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, which received Royal Assent on 19 July 2007, introduces a single piece of bailiff law which brings together in one place the legal structure for all warrant enforcement, written in terms that are easily understandable and which clearly outline the rights and responsibilities of creditors, debtors and enforcement agents.

Departmental Opinion Polls

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what polling companies held contracts with his Department centrally in 2007-08; and what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services each provided. [205410]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has contracted Ipsos MORI to produce stakeholder surveys, the results of which are used to understand departmental reputation and to measure departmental performance and capability. The 2007-08 framework comprises a mix of five quantitative and qualitative surveys of different customer groups.

It is possible that other companies may have been contracted to provide ad hoc polling services. However this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what projects sponsored by his Department were subject to Gateway reviews in each of the last four years; what status each project was assigned under such reviews; how much his Department spent on Gateway reviews in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [205871]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* The BERR-sponsored programmes and projects in the following list were subject to 'medium' or 'high' risk OGC Gateway reviews in each of the last four years. Gateway reports, including the findings and status, are conducted on a confidential basis for Senior Responsible Owners (SROs). We do not make this information routinely public.

2007-08

RSS Discovery Replacement Project
Dispute Resolution Review - New Services Project
HECToR
Easter Bush Research Centre
CHAMP
Business Support Simplification Programme
BLISS NIMR
Enabling the Future (2 Gateway Reviews in 2007/08)
CHIPS - Information Processing System
Digital Switchover Programme
Sellafield PBO Competition
LLWR PBO Competition
Magnox South Competition
CEH Transition and Integration Programme CO3031
CCS Demonstration Programme
Research Councils Shared Services Centre Implementation Project
Debt Relief Orders

2006-07

Easter Bush Research Centre
Data Improvement Programme
Company Law Reform Programme
HR Operational Efficiency Project
Competition for a PRO for the Sellafield SLC
Diamond Light Source
Service Transformation and Restructuring Programme (STAR)
Research Councils Shared Services Centre Implementation Project
Digital Switchover Programme
CHIPS - Information Processing System
UK Trade and Investment E-Business Programme - CRM Project
NDA DRIGG Competition (2 Gateway Reviews in 2006-07)
UKAEA Winfrith Site Closure Programme
RRS Charles Darwin Replacement (RRS James Cook)
UKTI 5 Year Strategy and Implementation
HECToR
NIMR RENEWAL
Two Roof Strategy Programme
Business Support Simplification Programme
Shared Primary Resource Information Environment
HR Operational Efficiency Project
RCUK Efficiency Delivery Project
Next Generation Back Office Project

2005-06

Consumer Direct Transition to OFT
Company Law Reform Programme
Pirbright Site Redevelopment
D3900 (RHILW Encapsulation, Immobilisation & Storage Facility)
Efficiency Delivery Programme
SGHWR
Trade Marks Integration and EDM Programme
National Physical Laboratory Upgrade Project
Consumer Direct
Digital Switchover Programme
Finance Excellence Plan Programme
SGHWR
HECToR
Flexible Computing Project
MATRIX 2
RCUK Efficiency Delivery Project
Account Services Update - MENTOR
CHIPS - Information Processing System
International Trade Single Window
Business Support Transformation Programme
XNP Partnering Project
Efficiency Delivery Programme
Two Roof Strategy Programme

2004-05

Information Centre Project
Research Administration Programme (RAP)
LLW Facilities Project
Business.gov
Efficiency Programme
HECToR
ICT Unit Project (P)
Consumer Direct
HPC(X) - High Performance Computing
D3900 (RHILW Encapsulation, Immobilisation and Storage Facility)
Digital Switchover Programme
RCUK Administration Strategy
Efficiency Programme
UKAEA Winfrith Site Closure Programme
Two Roof Strategy Programme
Trade Marks Integration and EDM Programme
NDA Programme
RRS Charles Darwin Replacement (RRS James Cook)
Euro Conversion Programme
Consumer Direct
Information Centre Project

A key principle of Gateway reviews is that they are cost neutral. However, where there is a shortfall in Civil Service Gateway Reviewers, suitably accredited external resource may be used. BERR is unable to identify the individual costs for each Gateway review undertaken as this information is not specifically recorded.

Local Better Regulation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Local Better Regulation Office will set performance *(a)* indicators and *(b)* targets for local authorities trading standards and environmental health divisions. [202950]

Mr. McFadden: LBRO will not set performance indicators or performance targets for local authorities. In order to ensure that LBRO understands performance issues in relation to its remit, the organisation is working closely with the Department of Communities and Local Government so that any LBRO projects which require the collection and/or analysis of performance information draw on and complement performance data available within the new performance framework for local government.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the number of people receiving the national minimum wage, broken down by level of total annual earnings. [204535]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* Around 800,000 adults aged 22 and over are receiving the October 2007 national minimum wage[1].

For people receiving the national minimum wage who remain with the same employer for the whole year[2] it is estimated that around a quarter are earning less than £2,800 gross annual pay, about half earn less than £5,400 per annum and around three-quarters earn less than £9,100 per annum.

The vast majority of those receiving the national minimum wage and earning less than the median of £5,400 per annum are part-time employees. There will also be some people earning above the national minimum wage who earn less than £5,400 per year (and are not included above) because they do not work many hours during a week or during the year.

[1] BERR has arrived at this estimate by deflating the October 2007 national minimum wage for adults (£5.52 per hour) by average earnings growth between April 2007 and October 2007. This deflated rate is equivalent to £5.40 per hour. Using April 2007 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings data around 800,000 individuals earn less than or equal to £5.40 per hour in the survey reference week.

[2] Data on annual gross pay is only collected in the Annual Survey of Hours for employees who have worked with the same employer for a period of at least 12 months. In addition, the hourly earnings and hours worked in the reference week will not necessarily be the same for each week of the year.

Official Visits: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what visits he has made to Essex in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204728]

Mr. Thomas: In the last 12 months there has been one occasion when a Minister has visited Essex in his official capacity. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Post Offices: Closures

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many submissions to the London Post Office Closure consultation supported the closure of a local post office. [205776]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much and what proportion of UK-generated energy supplies in megawatt hours was derived from renewable sources in each of the last five years. [206101]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The shares of renewables within (a) UK energy supplies and (b) renewable electricity within UK-generated electricity for 2002 to 2006 are summarised in the following tables. Data for 2007 will not be available until later this year.

(a) Share of renewables in UK energy supply, 2002-06

	UK energy supply (GWh)	*UK renewable energy supply (GWh)*	*Share of renewables within UK energy supply (percentage)*
2002	2,804,563	33,685	1.20
2003	2,838,674	36,140	1.27
2004	2,861,701	42,858	1.50
2005	2,876,913	49,311	1.71
2006	2,835,487	51,522	1.82

Source:
Data derived from the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2007, Tables 1.1 and 7.7.

(b) Share of renewables in UK electricity generation, 2002-06

	UK electricity generation (GWh)	*UK renewable electricity generation (GWh)*	*Share of renewables within UK electricity generation (percentage)*
2002	387,246	11,127	2.87
2003	398,209	10,548	2.65
2004	393,867	14,085	3.58
2005	398,372	16,870	4.23
2006	398,327	18,133	4.55

Source:
Data derived from the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2007, Tables 5.6 and 7.4

Small Businesses: Bureaucracy

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress the Better Regulation Executive is making towards its target of reducing red tape for small businesses by 25 per cent. by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [206570]

Mr. McFadden: In December 2007, 19 Simplification Plans were published, showing more than 700 measures to reduce the burdens of complying with regulations. Over 280 of these measures have already been delivered saving businesses £800 million per year. Examples include:

Simpler law for smaller businesses (BERR):

> Smaller businesses stand to benefit from substantial rewrite of company law. Coupled with better guidance, new provisions are expected to lower third party costs and make compliance easier. Conservative estimate of £2 million annual savings delivered.

Changes to small business rate relief (Communities):

> Small firms eligible for small business rate relief no longer have to register for relief annually. £3 million annual savings delivered, and expected to rise to £11 million by 2010.

Small firms audit requirements (Financial Services Authority):

> Removed the need for 3,400 small firms to have a statutory audit, saving £12.9 million per year. Copies of these plans are available online at:
>
> http://www.berr.gov\uk/bre/policy/simplifyingexistingregulation/simplificationplans/2007/page44068.html

Our Enterprise Strategy, published alongside the Budget, also contained significant new proposals to reduce regulation. This includes examining whether small firms can be either exempted from new regulation or be subject to specifically tailored approaches. The Government will also consult on the introduction of regulatory budgets.

UK Trade and Investment: Contracts

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what bilateral commercial contracts have been signed with the assistance of UK Trade and Investment since July 2007. [204861]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* UK Trade & Investment measures its performance in terms of the value it adds for its customers and for the economy. In the case of its trade services, results for FY 2007-08 show that UKTI helped 15,900 UK companies to exploit overseas business opportunities. The total estimated additional bottom line profit for these businesses, generated by UKTI services, was £3 billion. In the case of inward investment, we expect the outturn result for the year to be close to the 525 target for foreign direct investment projects which UKTI has successfully facilitated, and significantly to have exceeded the target for 125 of those projects to be of high value.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will meet Welsh Assembly Government ministers to discuss the use of concessionary bus passes across the border between England and Wales. [206616]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State has no plans at present to meet Welsh Assembly Government Ministers to discuss the use of concessionary bus passes across the England/Wales border, and nor have I. Further to my answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 597W, discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government about reciprocal arrangements for cross-border concessionary travel between England and the Devolved Administrations have taken place at official level.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2041W, on departmental manpower, how many of the employees under 18 years of age are receiving at least one day's training per week. [204936]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport currently employs 18 people who are under the age of 18. Sixteen of these employees are temporary staff, and they do not receive more than one day of training per week.

Of the remaining two employees, one receives at least one day of training per week.

Driving Instruction: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the standards of newly-qualified drivers; [205768]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of road traffic accidents caused by newly-qualified drivers. [205769]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 7 May 2008, we launched the Driving Standards Agency's Learning to Drive consultation, which sets out proposals for the reform of driver education, training and testing. The reforms will better prepare newly qualified drivers for modern driving conditions and help reduce collisions and casualties:

Key elements in our proposals are as follows.

A new pre driver foundation qualification in safe road use, with a course piloted in schools and colleges in Scotland from this autumn.

More thorough and effective learning to drive arrangements underpinned by a new learning to drive syllabus setting out the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be a safe and competent driver. This will be supported by a student workbook. We are trialling new ways for people to develop safe attitudes including an attitude advisor, which can assess driver's approach to risk and help guide training programs. We shall be investigating new ways of learning and training, including driver discussion groups, as well as improved in-car training arrangements.

Improved driving tests. We are investigating changes to both our theory and practical tests to ensure drivers meet the standards we require before qualifying for a full licence.

We are researching our theory test so it provides a better assessment of understanding, perhaps by using case studies. We shall research possible changes to the Hazard Perception Test to improve its safety effects. We have sought views on whether we should continue to publish the theory test question bank.

We are trialling possible changes to the practical test so that it provides a better guide to whether a learner has reached the standard to drive unsupervised. These changes include introducing independent driving, situational judgment, changes to the way specific manoeuvres are tested and switching from a fault based marking system to one that focuses on positive evidence on competence.

We are investigating improved feedback arrangements for all our tests. We are also looking at splitting the theory and practical tests into modules, to enable learners to pass elements as they are ready.

New opportunities to take further training and qualifications. We shall work with the insurance industry and employers whose employees drive in the course of their work to develop new courses and qualifications that they value, leading to lower insurance premiums and improved job prospects.

Star ratings for driving instructors so that learners can make an informed choice about the driver training services on offer and which are suitable for them.

Improved training and testing arrangements for driving instructors, both when they qualify initially and subsequently, to ensure they are well placed to provide a quality service in the new environment.

Copies of the consultation paper are available in the Libraries of the House.

Driving Tests

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving test centres in England closed in each year since 1997; which driving test centres in England are earmarked for closure by the Driving Standards Agency; what savings have been achieved as a result of closures already implemented; and what estimate she has made of possible savings resulting from future closures. [202359]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) currently operates a network of 425 driving test centres throughout Great Britain.

To facilitate the introduction of new European requirements for practical tests, alongside its existing estate DSA is developing a new national network of driving test centres. These centres, which are based on an updated design, are fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and also support the Government's wider sustainability agenda.

In order to exploit the value of the investment in these new centres DSA have decided that, wherever possible, they will be multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs). The new centres will have appropriate facilities to conduct practical tests for learner car drivers and motorcyclists. In some cases, there will also be provision for lorry driver tests.

As an organisation which relies on test fee income for the provision of its services DSA needs to ensure that it can deliver a cost-effective service which avoids unnecessary expenditure. The provision of MPTCs is expected to cost in the region of £71 million. That cost will largely be recovered through increased fees paid by test candidates.

In order to keep those fee increases to the minimum, DSA must closely examine how it delivers its services and seek more efficiencies in the way it conducts its business. This includes reviewing existing driving test centre provision to ensure that, while the service standard is maintained, there is no wasteful over-provision of facilities. Regrettably this does mean that some existing driving test centres have to close.

Since 1997 the following driving test centres in England have been closed:

Driving test centre (DTC)	*Date closed*	*Annual saving[1] (£)*
Alvaston LGV	1997	[2]—
Sheffield Manor Top	1997	[2]—
Farnborough	29 September 1998	[2]—
Surbiton	3 June 2000	[2]—
New Ilford	27 July 2000	[2]—
Southfields	12 September 2000	[2]—
New Southgate	15 December 2000	[2]—
Teddington	15 June 2001	[2]—
Truro	17 January 2002	[2]—
Leamington Spa	28 February 2002	[2]—
Stratford Upon Avon	8 April 2002	[2]—
Croydon LGV	14 January 2004	13,846.00
Coventry Holyhead Road	26 January 2004	11,237.00
Coventry Mason Road	26 January 2004	7,643.00
Wallington Old Town Hall	31 January 2005	2,731.00
Birmingham Quinton	31 May 2006	25,026.00
Sidcup Craybrook	15 June 2007	18,784.00
Thornaby	27 August 2007	19,176.00
Winchmore Hill	31 August 2007	6,588.00
Ipswich LGV	15 September 2007	637.00
Total	—	137,431.00

[1] Due to the recording system used by DSA, details of savings cannot be provided for driving test centres which closed prior to 2004.
[2] Unavailable.

Since September 2007 the following driving test centres have closed and been relocated as a result of the multi-purpose test centre project:

DTC	*Annual saving*[1] *(£)*
Darlington	22,662.71
Exeter	125,361.77
Gainsborough	3,646.20
Gateshead	14,628.36
Gloucester	36,128.30
Hessle	17,151.20
Hull	10,431.25
Ipswich Woodbridge	32,550.12
Rotherham	18,843.02
Scunthorpe	10,017.88
Shrewsbury	14,901.14
St Helens	9,445.22
Total	315,767.17

[1] Due to the recording system used by DSA, details of savings cannot be provided for driving test centres which closed prior to 2004.

The following driving test centres have been earmarked for closure and the anticipated savings from their closure are shown alongside; most of these closures will result from the implementation of the multi-purpose driving test centre project:

DTC	*Potential savings (£)*
Bexleyheath	13,266.37
Blackburn	18,432.59
Burton On Trent	17,413.22
Carlisle	17,665.86
Chester	11,453.44
Gedling	8,615.90
Gillingham	36,599.27
Herne Bay	9,283.62
Kings Lynn	7,869.21
Leicester Welford Road	21,369.51
Lincoln	15,772.57
Minehead	1,806.22
Norwich	10,499.00
Peterborough	31,712.91
Plymouth	53,084.30
Shirley	21,402.05
Southend	22,062.47
Spalding	4,660.00
Swindon	8,700.53
Taunton	36,461.65
Trowbridge	13,782.05
Warrington	24,150.62
Washwood Heath	13,559.31
West Bridgford	21,169.43
Wisbech	6,796.31
Wolverhampton	7,909.43
Total	455,497.84

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the cost to the public purse of changing the format of the driving test. [206060]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our aim is to develop more effective and efficient training and testing arrangements to improve road safety without increasing the average cost of learning to drive which we estimate currently to be some £1,500. A partial Impact Assessment which includes cost estimates for various elements of our proposals was published alongside the Driving Standards Agency's "Learning to Drive" consultation paper and these can be accessed via the DSA website www.dsa.gov.uk.

Actual costs would depend upon the decisions we reach in light of the comments from consultees plus the research and trialling work we are undertaking in parallel with the wide-ranging consultation exercise. We shall publish an updated Impact Assessment alongside our implementation plans.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the longest distance is that learner drivers are expected to travel to take a driving test; [206249]

(2) what estimate she has made of the size of population that each driving test centre should serve. [206250]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers have agreed the following target service levels for the distances most candidates are required to travel to take practical car driving tests:

Population density	*Distance criteria*
>=1,250/km2	No more than 7 miles
101-1,249/km2	No more than 20 miles
0-100/km2	No more than 30 miles

For practical motorcycle riding tests the target is that most customers should be able to reach a motorcycle testing facility within 45 minutes, travelling no more than 20 miles.

Driving Under Influence: Accidents

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the number of road traffic accidents associated with binge drinking in the latest period for which figures are available. [206017]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on personal injury road accidents associated with binge drinking is not available.

The provisional number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver/rider over the legal alcohol limit in Great Britain in 2006 was 9,390. Information is not available for damage only road accidents.

Further information on drinking and driving in reported personal injury road accidents is available in the 'Drinking and driving' article in 'Road Casualties Great Britain 2006' available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221549/227755/rcgb2006v1.pdf.

Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Driving: Costs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on changes in the cost to motorists of driving since 2005; and if she will make a statement. [206061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Retail Prices Index published by the Office for National Statistics is used to measure changes in the costs of motoring.

The total cost of motoring fell by 4 per cent. from January 2005 to April 2008 in real terms. The total includes the cost of buying cars, fuel, maintenance and insurance. This overall fall was driven largely by the falling costs of car purchase—down by 20 per cent. over this period. The real terms cost of tax and insurance fell by 6 per cent., the cost of maintenance rose by 5 per cent., with the cost of petrol and oil rising by 21 per cent.

Driving: Young People

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures were used to choose the *(a)* venues, *(b)* participants and *(c)* contents of the Young People's Forums on Driving; and what steps have been taken to inform young (i) drivers and (ii) learner drivers of the report of the workshops held under the auspices of the forum. [206371]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To offer a reasonable geographical spread, one location in each of the nations in Great Britain was chosen. Nottingham was used as a central location in England outside of London; Cardiff and Glasgow as the major cities in Wales and Scotland.

The opportunity to apply to participate in the forum was widely promoted within each of the chosen locations through:

university and college networks

youth centres

local council youth programmes

workplaces with a relatively high number of young employees

Participants were selected to ensure that a reasonable diversity of membership for each group was reflected in terms of:

age

gender

ethnicity

educational or working background

stage in driver learning and learning/driving history

The contents of the fora were chosen so that:

elements of the proposed approach to driver learning and testing could be reviewed;

specific relevant research questions could be discussed and responded to;

the products we wanted to use for the "Learning to Drive" consultation exercise could be developed and reviewed to make them meaningful and accessible to young people.

As well as the references to the work of the Young People's Forum and the workshops, a full report is available on the Driving Standards Agency website:

http://www.dsa.gov.uk/Documents/Consultation/ltd/DSA_YPF_Summary_report_10%2001%2008FINAL.pdf

The "Learning to Drive" consultation paper can be freely downloaded from the dedicated website:

www.dsa.gov.uk/learningtodrive

The website is accessible to young drivers and learners as well as the public in general.

The consultation and website are being promoted via three major social networking sites.

A condensed version of the full consultation paper has been published as a booklet, specifically with young people in mind. Public events will be held in England, Scotland and Wales during the consultation period. Members from the fora will attend to talk to young people who come along.

A media campaign will run throughout the duration of the consultation to promote the events and the website.

Information and directions to the "Learning to Drive" website are included with both the practical driving and theory test confirmation letters and are published on the Directgov website.

Lorries: Road Traffic Offences

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue remains uncollected from non-UK registered Heavy Goods Vehicles for (a) congestion charges, (b) parking fines, (c) speeding fines and (d) low emissions zone breaches. [206044]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 May 2008]*: The Government do not hold this information centrally.

Information collected by the Government identifies the total number of fixed penalties ordered to be paid in relation to criminal motoring offences such as speeding, and the number and amounts of court fines issued. Detailed data about particular offences, or the type of vehicle involved, are not collected.

The relevant highway authority is responsible for the enforcement of penalty charges for civil contraventions—such as congestion charge, parking and low emission zone contraventions. The Government do not require local authorities to provide information relating to unpaid penalty charges, or to particular vehicle types.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Pay

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of implementing the pay benchmarking analysis undertaken by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in 2007. [206591]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the PCS and Prospect Unions have yet to agree formally both the details within the 2007 comparability studies and the validity and appropriateness of the potential comparators they describe. No estimate of costs can be made unless and until that agreement is reached.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received from the chief executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on staff *(a)* pay and *(b)* grading. [206614]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is the established practice that Maritime and Coastguard Agency chief executives have regular meetings with DfT Ministers, at which any aspect of Agency business can be discussed.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Recruitment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of staff recruitment for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency was in each year since 1997. [206568]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost of advertising and fees for staff recruitment at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, by financial year, since 1998 is shown in the following table.

	Cost (£)
1998-99	59,942
1999-2000	44,159
2000-01	55,528
2001-02	100,463
2002-03	158,488
2003-04	244,672
2004-05	188,227
2005-06	231,968
2006-07	325,171
2007-08	252,221

Information is not available for 1997-08.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Vacancies

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff vacancies there are in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. [206569]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As of 15 May there were 36 vacancies that have arisen because of normal staff turnover.

In addition there were a further 60 posts to be filled as part of the agency's on-going restructuring exercise, the majority of which will be filled from the pool of displaced existing staff. None of these were for coastguards or for surveyors.

Parking: Schools

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance has been issued to local highway authorities by her Department on *(a)* charging parents to drop their children off outside schools and *(b)* restricting the provision of parking places near schools. [205403]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have not issued any specific guidance on these aspects of parking. The Department's "School travel strategies and plans: a best practice guide for local authorities" identified the imposition of parking restrictions as one of several measures that local authorities should consider when providing safer routes to schools, and it gave examples of local authorities that had used such controls as part of their traffic management strategies. There are powers in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that enable local authorities to introduce parking controls (including any associated charges) where they consider it appropriate.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been commissioned by her Department on *(a)* the primary causes of accidents involving newly-qualified drivers and *(b)* measures to improve the road-readiness of drivers following the passing of the driving test. [206372]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The consultation on improving learning to drive which the Department for Transport launched on 7 May 2008 is supported by a number of research reports on the nature of the problems faced by learner and newly qualified drivers. The main research is summarised in the Learning to Drive evidence document, which is available online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme2/rsrr87.pdf)

The research includes a large-scale study on the experiences and attitudes of learner and new drivers, including their involvement in accidents. This report can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme2/cohort2/cohrtiimainreport.pdf

There is also substantial research on the causes of accidents involving young people, who represent the majority of newly qualified drivers—three-quarters (75 per cent.) of newly qualified drivers in 2006-07 were under the age of 25. In 2002, an in-depth study, commissioned by the Department, which explored the causes of accidents involving young drivers was published—see:

http://www.trl.co.uk/store/report_detail_asp?srid=2693

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were killed in car accidents in London where at least one of the drivers involved was aged 21 years or under and (i) male and (ii) female in each year since 1997. [206378]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* male and *(b)* female fatalities in reported road accidents involving at least one (i) male and (ii) female car driver was aged 21 years or under in London in 1997 to 2006 are shown in the table.

Number of fatalities[1]

	Male car driver aged 21 years or under		*Female car driver aged 21 years or under*	
	Male fatality	*Female fatality*	*Male fatality*	*Female fatality*
1997	26	4	1	4
1998	14	7	2	0
1999	26	4	9	1
2000	24	10	2	2
2001	24	3	4	2
2002	18	9	0	3
2003	11	3	2	1
2004	18	2	2	0
2005	16	5	3	2
2006	22	0	1	1

[1] Some fatalities may be double counted in the table as an accident could involve both a male driver (aged 21 and under) and a female driver (aged 21 and under).

Sea Rescue: Strikes

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contingency arrangements were made by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency during each of the last three strikes by coastguards; and what further contingency arrangements have been identified as necessary in the event of a strike by coastguards lasting four days. [206588]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK's maritime emergency response is provided by a co-operative partnership of Government Departments, emergency services and other organisations. During the three 24-hour periods of strike action by some Maritime and Coastguard Agency staff in March and April, the Agency worked with its partner organisations to maintain UK emergency response and search and rescue co-ordination capabilities. This was achieved by using a combination of well-rehearsed internal contingency measures (such as employing existing technology to 'pair' rescue co-ordination centres, where necessary), redeploying experienced managers, establishing a national strategic support centre and co-ordinating closely with other search and rescue operators. In addition, the Agency ensured that information about MCA services during the strike was widely disseminated to its customers.

The Agency will approach contingency planning for any future strike action by coastguards in a similar manner.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff at each coastguard station participated in strike action in each strike affecting the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in the last five years. [206592]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of staff, by Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre, who have taken strike action in each strike affecting the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in the last five years, is shown as follows:

	Strike date		
MRCC	*6 March 2008*	*11 March 2008*	*23/24 April 2008*
Portland	13	12	11
Solent	17	11	16
Dover	12	10	11
Thames	11	11	12
Yarmouth	9	8	9
Humber	8	7	12
Forth	10	3	4
Aberdeen	9	5	6
Shetland	0	0	0
Stornoway	6	5	2
Clyde	11	8	5
Belfast	11	11	2
Liverpool	13	10	4
Holyhead	14	11	7
Milford Haven	9	8	2
Swansea	14	8	12
Falmouth	12	11	0
Brixham	9	10	1
London	2	2	2
Total	190	151	118

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many smoking shelters were built at each of her Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205037]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Two.

Travel: Concessions

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the reason was for her issue of advice to local authorities on 14 February for them to order temporary concessionary travel passes; [206306]

(2) when she was first informed that Smartcard passes might not be ready by 1 April 2008; [206307]

(3) what the reasons are for the time taken to produce the Smartcard passes for the concessionary travel scheme; what assessment she has made of where responsibility for the delay to the time taken for production falls; and if she will make a statement; [206308]

(4) how many concessionary scheme bus passes have not been issued on the original timetable; and if she will make a statement. [206309]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Responsibility for issuing the concessionary travel passes rests with travel concession authorities, as it has done since 2000. When we made the decision last September to require the new concessionary travel passes to be in smartcard form we recognised this was a challenging requirement in the time available. This is why we put in place contingency arrangements, including allowing existing local passes to remain valid in the local area until 30 September, and providing authorities with temporary passes for people who wished to travel outside their local area.

Local authorities were advised to order sufficient temporary passes to ensure that anyone who was eligible for the England-wide concession was able to take advantage of it from 1 April even if they had not received their smartcard pass by then.

In fact, most local authorities and their suppliers were able to produce passes in time for the start of the concession. By 1 April, 95 per cent. of the anticipated passes had been produced. Unfortunately, while they had managed to produce the passes on time, we are aware that some suppliers experienced last minute problems in dispatching those passes to eligible people. Despite this, we estimate that around 4.8 million passes were dispatched by 1 April.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1433W, on the West Coast railway line, what contingency plans are in place should the implementation of the West Coast Main Line timetable due in December 2008 need to be delayed. [206590]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government remain confident that Network Rail can deliver the December 2008 timetable changes on schedule. In the event that the timetable was to be delayed, existing services would continue. However, the Department for Transport is aware of the changes that would need to be made to franchises and the impact of any delay on the delivery of other projects. These matters were carefully considered by the Secretary of State when she decided to support delivery of the December 2008 outputs on schedule.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Carbon Monoxide: Alarms

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice the Housing Health and Safety Rating System provides on the use of carbon monoxide alarms. [203050]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Health and Safety Rating System is a risk assessment tool used to assess potential risks to the health and safety of occupants in residential properties in England and Wales. Local authorities are responsible for operating the Housing Health and Safety Rating System.

The Housing Health and Safety Rating System assesses 29 categories of housing hazard; each hazard has a weighting which will help determine whether the property is rated as having Category 1 (serious) or Category 2 (other) hazards.

Within the 29 categories carbon monoxide and fuel combustion products are listed as hazards. Clearly exposure to high concentrations of carbon monoxide is a serious hazard and following discovery of such concentrations would lead to immediate action to address the situation. Communities and Local Government has issued operating guidance for local authorities. The guidance contains a number of preventative measures that may be taken including the use carbon monoxide detectors. The guidance can be viewed on the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hhsrs operatingguidance

Community Development

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many submissions she received in response to her consultation paper on the action plan for community empowerment; and when these representations will be published. [205596]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government received 33 responses to the Community Empowerment Action Plan over the course of October 2007 to January 2008. These responses are being fed into the development of policy for the Community Empowerment White Paper which will be published this summer.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many receptions she has hosted and funded in her capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203841]

Hazel Blears: I will publish, in due course, an annual list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in this Department during the previous financial year.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on translation services into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages by her Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [203871]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's expenditure by financial year on translation services is as follows:

Financial year	*£*
2003-04	114,191
2004-05	51,304
2005-06	61,319
2006-07	29,942
2007-08	61,329

Data to identify departmental expenditure on translation into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages are not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's agencies have supplied the following information on their expenditure on translations services.

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Planning Inspectorate	93,047	96,082	64,152	67,890	59,215
Fire Service College	—	—	—	75	30
QE2 Conference Centre	—	—	—	—	—

The Fire Service College can supply data for financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08. It could provide previous years' expenditure only at disproportionate cost. Detailed expenditure on translation into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Ordnance Survey could identify spend on translation services only at disproportionate cost.

Records of the expenditure on translation by non-departmental public bodies are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Waste Disposal

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much waste produced by her Department was sent to landfill in each year since 1997. [206056]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government produced the following amounts of general waste (in tonnes):

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Communities and Local Government	253	310	204	203	197
Executive Agencies	[1]—	[1]—	1400	644	633

[1] Date not available in these years. *Note:* These data do not include information from the regional Government Office network.

The Department is currently compiling its waste data for 2007-08, and does not hold data prior to 2002-03.

It should be noted that the Department sends its general waste to an incineration plant which generates energy from waste, rather than disposing in landfill.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the letters of support for the shortlisted eco-town locations from *(a)* the Highways Agency, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* Natural England. [202079]

Caroline Flint: The initial identification of issues reflecting comments by these Agencies is summarised for each location in the recently published consultation document—"Eco-towns—Living a greener future". This summarises the issues facing each shortlisted location and assesses both the benefits of the schemes and the challenges, as communicated to Communities and Local Government by all those agencies with an interest, including those related to transport and the environment. Copies of the consultation document are available in the House Library. Assessment of the issues and challenges for each location by the Agencies and other partners is continuing and will be set out in more detail in a draft Sustainability Appraisal on the locations and a draft policy statement, which we expect to publish for further consultation in July.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings Ministers in her Department have had with each of the 15 short-listed eco-town bidders. [202587]

Caroline Flint: Neither the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government nor Ministers in her Department have held meetings with representatives of bidders from the shortlisted eco-town bidders. Ministerial meetings will be held with them all in due course.

Eco-Towns Challenge Panel

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the role and purpose of the Eco-Towns Challenge Panel is; whether it will provide advice on which eco-towns proposed should be submitted for planning approval; and if she will make a statement; [205009]

(2) how the members of the Eco-Towns Challenge panel were selected; what the basis was of the establishment of the panel; how much it is estimated to cost each year; and what remuneration is paid to its members. [205112]

Caroline Flint: The Eco-Towns Challenge was set up specifically to be a short-term independent panel that would work with bidders to improve their schemes during the first stage of the process for taking eco-towns forward (as set out in 'Eco-towns—Living a greener future').

Members of the panel were selected for their expertise in matters of environment, sustainability, transport and design. Each member will be paid the Government rate of £350 per day when they are working for the panel. At present three panel meetings have been scheduled in May and June, but we anticipate a further round of meetings.

Eco-towns Challenge Panel: Political Impartiality

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether members of the Eco-towns Challenge Panel have made declarations of recent political activity. [202563]

Caroline Flint: The Eco-towns Challenge was set up to be a short term independent panel that would work with bidders to improve their plans. and declarations of political activities are not required for expert panels of this type. Members of the panel were selected for their expertise in matters of environment, sustainability, transport and design.

Eco-Towns: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department and its agencies have to use the New Towns Act 1981 to establish delivery vehicles for eco-towns. [202608]

Caroline Flint: As we have set out in the consultation document "Eco-towns-Living a greener future", the New Towns Act 1981 may be an appropriate delivery option in circumstances where:

> the task of infrastructure provision and related investment was of a scale where a statutory body would have significant advantages;
>
> there was a major risk of land assembly and the need for special powers was evident; and
>
> the ability of a statutory body to bring forward development more quickly was a significant factor.

We would only use these powers to support delivery of complex and challenging developments, and would expect such vehicles to be used in partnership with the local authorities.

Eco-Towns: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the location is of each Eco-Town bid made to her Department which has not been short-listed. [202588]

Caroline Flint: A list of the bids which were not on the shortlist published on 3 April is set out in the consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future". Based on the information received in relation to these bids, the areas in which they are located are set out as follows:

Region	*Scheme name*	*Borough/district/city*
East Midlands[1]	Kingston	Rushcliffe
East Midlands	Grovewood	Burton and South Derbyshire
East Midlands	Burtoft	Boston
East	Land North of Harlow	Harlow
East	Easton Park	Uttlesford
East	The Cambridge Light Railway and Cambridge Heath, a sustainable country town	Cambridge
East	North Weald	Epping Forest
East	Boxted Wood Eco Town	Braintree/Uttlesford
East	Alconbury Airfield	Huntingdonshire
East	Marks Tey	Colchester/ Braintree
East	Peterborough EcoTown	Peterborough
East	Thorpe Wood	Broadlands
East	Tilbury	Thurrock
East	Mereham New Community	East Cambridgeshire
East	Sculthorpe Airfield	South Cambridgeshire
East	Waterbeach (Denny St. Francis)	Cambridgeshire
East	Thurleigh North	Bedford/ Mid-Bedford
East	Thamesgate	Thurrock
North East	Causey Park	Gateshead
North East	Stockton Eco Town	Stockton-on-Tees
North East	Cambois	North Tyneside
North West	Wardle	Crewe and Nantwich
North West	Eco-Town Carrington	Trafford
North West	Derwent Forest	Allerdale
South East	Airtrack Rail	Bracknell Forest/Wokingham
South East	Redhill Aerodrome	Tandridge District, Reigate and Banstead
South East	Dunsfold Park	Waverley
South East	Sittingbourne	Swale
South East	Greenway	Aylesbury Vale
South East	Micheldever Station Market Town (MSMT)	Winchester
South East	Shipton Eco-town	Cherwell
South East	The Surrey/London borders EcoTown	Reigate and Banstead
South East	Westcott	Aylesbury Vale
West Midlands	The Throckmorton Airfield Sustainable Community	Wychavon
Yorkshire and Humberside[1]	Clifton Gate	York
Yorkshire and Humberside[1]	The Stainforth and Hatfield Eco Town Initiative	Doncaster
Yorkshire and Humberside[1]	Thorp Arch	Leeds
Yorkshire and Humberside[1]	Willow Green	Selby
Yorkshire and Humberside	Micklefield	Leeds
Yorkshire and Humberside[1]	The Greens	Leeds
Yorkshire and Humberside[1]	Darringfield	Wakefield

[1] A further review of locations is taking place in Rushcliffe and in Leeds city region as set out in the consultation document.

Eco-Towns: Public Participation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Stage 2 and Stage 3 consultation procedures for eco-towns, what opportunities there will be for members of the public to participate in the consultation process; and what level of detail relating to each proposal will be available at each stage. [201841]

Caroline Flint: There will be considerable opportunity for public consultation at Stage 2 of the eco-towns consultation procedures, as there is currently during Stage 1. Over the next three months we are consulting on preliminary views on eco-town benefits and the shortlisted locations, as set out in the consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future". Bidders are publicising further details of schemes and holding consultation events, with input from local authorities. The arrangements will vary according to the location and the status of the schemes being developed. My Department will also be commissioning exhibition and consultation events about the eco-towns concept and the proposals in the consultation paper.

At Stage 2 we will publish—for further consultation—a draft Eco-towns Policy Statement and a draft Sustainability Appraisal which will set out more detail for each location.

Stage 3 of the process, as set out in "Eco-towns—Living a greener future", will be the stage at which we publish the final list of locations with potential to be an eco-town and the final Eco-towns Policy Statement. After this it will be for individual schemes on the final shortlist to come forward with planning applications.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy performance certificates (EPCs) have been recorded on the EPC register; and how many home condition reports (HCRs) have been recorded on the HCR register. [202585]

Caroline Flint: As of 29 April 2008 there are 645,045 Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and 1,776 Home Condition Reports (HCRs) stored in the Domestic EPC and HCR Registers for Dwellings.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* data fields and *(b)* property attributes are held on the (i) Energy Performance Certificate and (ii) Home Condition Report register. [202642]

Caroline Flint: The data fields and property attributes that are held on the (Domestic) Energy Performance Certificate and Home Condition Report Registers for dwellings, are defined in the document entitled, "Technical Standards Enumerated Values". This document forms part of the Certification and Accreditation Scheme Technical Standards and can be found on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/enumerated-values

Fire Safety: Construction Methods

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 397W, on fire safety: construction methods, if she will meet the Association of British Insurers to discuss section 4.4 of its Technical Briefing on Fire Performance of Sandwich Panel Systems (2003) and the combustibility of composite core panels which have passed the insurance industry standard LPS 1181. [205761]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Association of British Insurers' Technical Briefing and the LPS 1181 test standard are not utilised within the guidance that supports the fire safety aspects of the Building Regulations or the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and they are not of direct relevance to the Department's work. No such meeting, therefore, is needed at this time.

Fire Safety: Warehouses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the use of sprinklers as fire resistors in warehousing facilities; and if she will make a statement. [205775]

Mr. Iain Wright: The recent review of the fire safety aspects of the building regulations looked at the case for sprinklers in warehouses. We undertook supporting research on the issue and a full public consultation. Following consultation, it was decided that a limit for the maximum unsprinklered compartment size for single storey warehouses should be set at 20,000m^2 and/or a height of 18m where previously no such limit existed. This new maximum compartment size was included in the 2006 edition of Approved Document B which came into effect in April 2007.

Since then we have had a number of representations suggesting that this maximum compartment size should be reduced such that smaller warehouse buildings would also be provided with sprinkler protection. However, we have no plans to revisit this part of the building regulations in the near future.

Heating: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the proposed labelling of heating systems in the Energy-using Products Directive. [206453]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government officials are in ongoing discussions about the proposed labelling of heating systems in the energy-using products directive with their opposite numbers in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Officials are also in discussion with counterparts in the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs who are leading negotiations on the Directive with the European Commission.

Housing

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been *(a)* built, *(b)* placed on sale and *(c)* sold through (i) Social HomeBuy, (ii) New Build HomeBuy, (iii) Open Market HomeBuy and (iv) the First Time Buyer Initiative in each region in England since 1st April 2006. [204262]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The following tables show the homes provided for 2006-08 by region for Social HomeBuy, Open Market HomeBuy, New Build HomeBuy and the First Time Buyers Initiative.

Social HomeBuy

	Sold
North-east	9
North-west	38
Yorkshire and the Humber	18
East midlands	5
West midlands	6
East	4
London	103
South-east	22
South-west	2
Total	207

Note:
Social HomeBuy is a demand led product for social tenants to buy their own home. Some participating landlords are offering the scheme widely across their stock. Others are targeting specific estates, locations or local authority areas. We estimate that the pilot scheme which ran from April 2006 to March 2008 and resulted in 207 sales was offered across 5 per cent. of social stock.
Source:
Housing Corporation Investment Management System

Open Market HomeBuy

	Sold
North-east	12
North-west	255
Yorkshire and the Humber	128
East midlands	122
West midlands	282
East	732
London	1,615
South-east	1,808
South-west	429
Total	5,383

Note:
Open Market HomeBuy enables purchasers to buy on the Open Market.
Source:
Housing Corporation Investment Management System

	Provided[1]	*Placed on sale*[2]
North-east	206	206
North-west	1,629	1,629
Yorkshire and the Humber	696	696
East midlands	2,111	2,111
West midlands	1,990	1,990
East	2,981	2,981
London	8,335	8,335
South-east	5,819	5,819
South-west	2,142	2,142
Total	25,909	25,909

[1] This can be both new build and acquisition and refurbishment.
[2] Placed on sale means that RSLs have completed the home and the final grant payment has been made. The Corporation's Investment Management System does not have comprehensive information on which properties have been sold by region for each RSL.
Source:
Housing Corporation Investment Management System

First time buyers initiative/London wide initiative

	Provided[1]	*Placed on sale*[2]	*Sold*[3]
North-east	104	69	24
North-west	359	253	48
Yorkshire and the Humber	116	116	92
East midlands	157	144	0
West midlands	257	189	126
East	237	162	23
London	770	627	240
South-east	529	444	251
South-west	304	304	95
Total	2,741	2,216	827

[1] Provided means: contracted i.e. a legal agreement has been completed with a house builder or RSL to deliver a target number of FTBI homes.
[2] Placed on sale means: the house builder/RSL and HomeBuy Agent market the homes. There is often a time lag between completion of the legal agreement and marketing because homes cannot be offered for sale if the expected time between exchange of contracts and sale completion is more than 12 months. The majority of FTBI homes are sold "off-plan".
[3] Sold means: First Time Buyer sales completions. This excludes reservations and exchange of contracts. Details of the latter categories can be provided if requested.
Source:
English Partnerships

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average equity in *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash terms purchased by a homeowner under the (a) Social Market Homebuy, (b) New Build Homebuy and (c) Open Market Homebuy schemes has been since each such scheme was established. [204576]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is only available for 2006-07 and is in the following table. For social homebuy and new build homebuy sales, the table shows the average equity purchased by the homeowner.

Average equity purchased by the homeowner in percentage and cash terms, 2006-07

Type of sale	*Average equity purchased (Percentage)*	*Average equity purchased (£)*
New Build Homebuy	47	79,446
Social Homebuy	56	120,372

For open market homebuy sales where the purchaser buys 100 per cent. of the property with the help of an equity loan, the following table shows the average equity loan provided to the homeowner.

Average equity loan provided to the homeowner in percentage and cash terms, 2006-07

Type of sale	*Average equity loan provided (Percentage)*	*Average equity loan provided (£)*
Open Market Homebuy	22	32,003

Source:
CORE new sales log.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the outcome of the shared-equity competition was restricted to a single mortgage lender. [201813]

Caroline Flint: It is not the case that the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme (2008-11) Open Market HomeBuy products are restricted to a single mortgage lender.

There are two products available providing equity loans of up to 50 per cent. enabling individuals to purchase a home on the open market. Purchasers through MyChoice HomeBuy can select a mortgage from participating lenders and purchasers through Ownhome can choose from the full range of Co-op mortgage products, and can re- mortgage with another qualifying lending institution, in accordance with the terms of the initial mortgage agreement.

I recently met with the Council of Mortgage Lenders who assured me that they will continue to support the availability of products compatible with shared equity schemes and of their commitment to ensuring the market remained open and competitive for first-time buyers, within the constraints of the wider financial market environment.

Housing: Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to designate further Growth Points. [202559]

Caroline Flint: A second round of the growth point programme was announced in the Housing Green Paper in July 2007. We have received nearly 30 expressions of interest for additional growth points, which are currently being assessed.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons she has struck out the requirement for 10 per cent. on-site renewable energy in all major new developments from the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy; [165297]

(2) what her Department's assessment is of the effect of ending the application of the existing Merton rule in the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy on those individual local planning authorities wishing to use the rule; [165298]

(3) what her reasons were for not accepting the independent panel's recommendations that Yorkshire and the Humber should have a minimum region-wide 10 per cent. on-site renewables planning requirement for all major new developments. [165299]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 806-61W, which confirmed that, as we gear up to our zero carbon ambition, councils will be able to continue with and adopt new Merton rules, although it is important that they are properly tested as part of development plan documents (DPDs).

The reasons for the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the Yorkshire and the Humber Assembly's draft revised Regional Spatial Strategy are set out in the published schedule. This is available on the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber's website at:

http://www.gos.gov.uk/goyh/plan/regplan/propchanges/

The consultation on the proposed changes closes on 21 December 2007. Representations received are being considered carefully in finalising the revised RSS which we intend to publish soon.

Local Authorities: Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on their strategic roles in housing in changing market conditions. [201413]

Mr. Iain Wright: As part of their statutory responsibilities we expect local authorities to provide advice and assistance to households threatened with homelessness. We are providing homelessness grant to all councils in England totalling £150 million over the next three years.

All local authorities should be supporting their local money advice agencies to advise people on how they can avoid getting into unnecessary debt. Local authorities will negotiate with individual lenders on a case by case basis where repossession is threatened. We are also working with local authorities to ensure that Court Desk sendees are available to people facing repossession action so that they have legal representation on the day. These areas of work are covered in "Preventing Homelessness: A Strategy Health Check" which we published in September 2006 as a toolkit for local authorities, and continue to use in our work to support local authorities in implementing their local homelessness strategies.

We aim to publish guidance to local authorities about the local authority strategic housing role later in the year, encouraging local authorities to assess and plan for the current and future housing needs of the local population across all tenures. This guidance will supplement the capacity building support that we have funded the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) to provide to help local authorities deliver their strategic housing role.

Local Authorities: Manpower

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the number of people employed by each local authority who have a learning disability. [206508]

John Healey: Information on the number of people employed by each local authority who have a learning disability is not held centrally.

Regional Planning and Development: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the economic impact of the Canvey Island Seafront Improvement scheme. [204600]

Caroline Flint: The case for the Canvey regeneration area has been subject to Her Majesty's Treasury's Green Book appraisal. A number of studies provided evidence to support the improvements, which are part of a wider programme for regenerating Castle Point within the Thames Gateway.

Regional Planning and Development: Eco-Towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the homes provided in eco-town developments are to be included in the local authority's allocation under the regional spatial strategies. [202651]

Caroline Flint: As set out in the consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future" we expect eco-towns to contribute significantly to help to meet those revised targets for additional housing and we want to assure local authorities, which include an eco-town in their future housing plans that it will, of course, count towards those future housing targets, which in most places are likely to be more stretching. The Housing Green Paper made clear that the housing numbers in existing and in some cases emerging plans were not high enough to address the pressing problem of long-term housing need and affordability. We are therefore aiming to complete a further set of Regional Spatial Strategy partial reviews by 2011 that will include revised housing numbers for local planning authorities that are consistent with our national aim to deliver 240,000 homes per year by 2016.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1692W, on Admiralty House: official residences, what payments have been made from the public purse in respect of damage to the Admiralty House residences since 2001. [205395]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office is not aware of any such damage

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether the Cabinet Office met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008; [204701]

(2) whether the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons met the Civil Service diversity targets by April 2008, as set out in the Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007, page 51. [205113]

Edward Miliband: The office of the Leader of the House of Commons forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007. The statistics can be viewed on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp

and copies have been placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008.

The Cabinet Office's progress against these targets will be published in its departmental annual report.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to his staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184346]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185279]

Phil Hope: Cabinet Office central records show the numbers of mobile phones, personal digital assistants and laptop computers issued to staff and reported lost, missing and stolen in each year since 2001 are as follows:

	Mobile phones	*PDAs*	*Laptops*
2001	0	0	1
2002	2	0	0
2003	3	0	9
2004	1	1	6
2005	1	2	1
2006	8	0	0
2007	6	1	3

The value of the personal digital assistants lost and stolen is £1,186.06.

Employment: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in each parliamentary constituency in Wales in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007, ranked in order of percentage change in the number employed. [205301]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in each parliamentary constituency in Wales in (a) 1997 and (b) 2007, each constituency being ranked in order of percentage change in the number employed. [205301]

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates of the total number of employed, for Welsh parliamentary constituencies. Estimates are obtained for the 12 month period ending in February 1997 from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). For the 12 month period ending March 2007 estimates have been provided from the Annual Population Survey (APS).

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: number of people employed aged 16+ in Welsh parliamentary constituencies 1997 and 2007

	12 months ending		
	February 1997 (Thousand)	*March 2007 (Thousand)*	*Percentage change between 1997 and 2007*
Caernarfon	24	33	38
Delyn	26	33	31
Ynys-Mon	23	30	29
Clwyd West	26	34	29
Vale of Clwyd	23	29	27
Vale of Glamorgan	37	45	21
Wrexham	28	34	21
Swansea West	25	30	22
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	28	34	20
Aberavon	22	26	19
Clwyd South	30	35	18
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	25	29	17
Islwyn	25	29	16
Caerphilly	33	38	16
Llanelli	27	31	14
Bridgend	33	37	14
Newport East	32	36	13
Swansea East	31	35	13
Cardiff North	39	44	11
Preseli Pembrokeshire	30	33	10
Cynon Valley	22	25	11
Rhondda	26	29	9
Ceredigion	31	33	9
Pontypridd	40	43	8
Gower	32	35	7
Blaenau Gwent	26	28	7
Newport West	34	37	6
Brecon and Radnorshire	30	32	6
Monmouth	36	38	6
Montgomeryshire	28	29	6
Cardiff West	35	36	2
Conwy	28	28	0
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	29	29	-2
Alyn and Deeside	42	41	-2
Cardiff Central	35	34	-2
Cardiff South and Penarth	37	36	-3
Neath	32	30	-6
Torfaen	38	36	-6
Ogmore	34	28	-20
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	20	15	-22

Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contribution net migration made to population change in the UK in each five year period since 1987. [205789]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what contribution net migration made to population change in the UK in each five year period since 1987. (205789)

The table below shows the contribution of net migration and natural change to population change for the UK for each five year period since 1987.

Contribution of net migration and natural change to population change for the UK for five-year periods from year ending mid-1987 to year ending mid-2006

	1987-1991	*1992-96*	*1997-2001*	*2002-06*
Total net migration and	—	—	—	932,999
	79,571	143,112	532,652	—
Other changes[1, 2]	—	—	—	12,424
Total natural change	675,252	582,604	416,471	528,429
Total population change	754,823	725,716	949,123	1,473,852

[1] It is not possible to separately identify and split net migration and other changes in the years up to 2001 For 2002-06 net migration and other changes are shown separately.

[2] Other changes primarily include changes in the number of armed forces and dependants resident in the area and also (for years up to and including 2001) a factor to ensure that population change over the intercensal period agrees with estimates derived from the Census.

Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Population

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what projections of population density for *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland in 2056 and beyond have been made. [205787]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what projections have been made of population density for *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland in 2056 and beyond. (205787)

Projected population densities can be calculated for any year from the published projected total population for that year and the area of the country. Projected densities for the year 2056, and country areas, are given in the table below.

National population projections are published for up to 75 years ahead and are available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8519

However, long-term projections should be treated with great caution. Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward, and particularly so for smaller geographic areas.

Projected population density of UK and constituent countries in 2056

	Projected population (million)	*Area (sq km)*	*Density (persons/sq km)*
United Kingdom	79	242,495	324
England	68	130,279	521
Wales	3	20,733	165
Scotland	5	77,907	67
Northern Ireland	2	13,576	53

Source: 2006-based national projections, ONS.

Private Sector: Pensions

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many private contractors providing public services have provided a contracted out, final-salary based defined benefit pension scheme or a defined contribution scheme to new starters working on those contracts; [203325]

(2) how many private contractors providing public services have stakeholder pension schemes for new starters on those contracts; [203326]

(3) how many private contractors providing public services who have stakeholder pension schemes for new starters on those contracts match employee contributions of more than six per cent. [203347]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally. Where public services contracts involve a transfer of staff from a public sector organisation to a private sector service provider (or a subsequent retender of that contract where TUPE applies), the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Public Sector Service Contracts may apply. This code does not apply across the whole of the public sector: local government has a separate code.

Where the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters does apply, it will be for the relevant Government Department to monitor the implementation of the code, including in relation to pensions provision by service providers.

Pupils: English Language

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what projections for future years have been made by the Office for National Statistics of *(a)* the number and *(b)* the proportion of schoolchildren with (i) one or both parents who were born abroad and (ii) English as a second language. [206272]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what projections for future years have been made of (a) the number and (b) the proportion of schoolchildren with (i) one or both parents who were born abroad and (ii) English as a second language. (206272)

Population projections are not made on the basis of country of birth. Neither have projections been made of those who have English as a second language.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Standards

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the implementation by the BBC Trust of the six purpose remits established in the 2006 Agreement between the Secretary of State and the British Broadcasting Corporation; [204075]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implementation by the BBC Trust of the purpose remit relating to citizenship and civil society established in the 2006 Agreement between the Secretary of State and the British Broadcasting Corporation. [204076]

Andy Burnham: Under the terms of the BBC Charter and Agreement, the BBC Trust is responsible for reviewing purpose remits.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the guidelines designed to secure appropriate standards in the content of the UK public services are, as required under the 2006 Agreement between the Secretary of State and the British Broadcasting Corporation. [204077]

Andy Burnham: Under the terms of the Charter and Agreement, it is the responsibility of the BBC Trust to approve guidelines designed to secure appropriate standards in the content of the BBC's services.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what agreements between the BBC and Ofcom under clause 92 of the 2006 Agreement between the Secretary of State and the British Broadcasting Corporation are in force. [204078]

Andy Burnham: Under the terms of the BBC Charter and Agreement, agreements between the BBC and Ofcom are the responsibility of those two parties.

Convergence Think Tank

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who the members of the Convergence Think Tank are; what its terms of reference are; and on what dates it has met since its establishment. [206037]

Andy Burnham: The term Convergence Think Tank (CTT) denotes the project rather than a group of individuals. Its objectives are to:

consider the opportunities and challenges facing a converged broadcasting, telecommunications and new media market;

highlight areas where the Government can do more to promote the development of the market and innovation and growth, as well as empowering and protecting consumers;

consider the future form and provision of public service content, building on the outputs from the Ofcom review of public service broadcasting which is currently under way;

actively engage in debate with key stakeholders; and

draw conclusions with a view to informing Government decisions on future policy development, including the case for any future legislative changes.

The work of the CTT is guided by a steering group of senior representatives from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and HM Treasury, and the four independent CTT advisors, Robin Foster, Chris Earnshaw, Tess Read and John Willis; Ofcom representatives attend as independent observers. The Steering group has met on 28 January, 18 February, 6 March, 25 March and 28 April this year. In addition, the first three in a series of CTT seminars were held on 7 February, 18 March and 22 April.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203842]

Andy Burnham: An annual list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in this Department during the course of the previous financial year will be published in due course.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of each public consultation held by his Department in the last three years. [203006]

Margaret Hodge: The Department spent £38,270 on consultation exercises in financial year 2005-06. These were:

The 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999;

The BBC Charter Review Green Paper - A strong BBC, independent of government;

Consultation Paper on a Cultural Test for British Films;

National Lottery Shares 2009 Consultation.

We spent £53,496 on printed consultations in 2006-07. These consultations were:

Welcome>Legacy: A Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games—a Consultation;

Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums;

Heritage Protection for the 21st Century—White Paper.

These figures do not include the costs of any public meetings or research associated with consultations or the staffing costs of carrying out online web consultations. In financial year 2007-08 all consultations were web-based.

Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions he has visited Essex in the last 12 months. [204977]

Andy Burnham: In the last 12 months, Ministers in this Department have visited Essex three times.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Football

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of support for grassroots football; and if he will make a statement. [204636]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not made a recent assessment of the adequacy of support for grassroots football but, on 7 May, we announced a new three year funding deal with the Football Foundation. We will continue to provide £15 million each year to the Foundation matched by The Football Association and the Premier League.

Since its creation in July 2000, the Football Foundation has invested in over 5,000 projects worth £650 million and it is the country's largest funder of grassroots football.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205007]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information relating to expenditure incurred on VIP facilities since May 2006 at Heathrow is set out in the following table. There is no record of similar expenditure incurred at either Gatwick, Luton or Stansted airports.

Period	*Number of times VIP service used*	*Expenditure (£)*
2006		
May	1	269.63
June	5	1,348.14
July	2	539.25
August	0	0
September	1	269.63
October	2	977.60
November	2	539.25
December	2	539.25
2007		
January	3	808.88
February	0	0
March	2	539.25
April	1	269.63
May	4	1,078.51
June	1	269.63
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	2	539.25
October	1	269.63
November	0	0
December	0	0
2008		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0

National Lottery: Tickets

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many National Lottery tickets were sold in each month since November 2006. [203100]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Camelot does not report the number of National Lottery tickets sold. However, it does report total National Lottery sales on a monthly basis and these can be found in the following table.

Month	*Sales (£ million)*
2006	
November	450.7
December	459.5
2007	
January	359.4
February	384.6
March	453.4
April	354.1
May	361.7
June	447.6
July	362.1
August	364.5
September	488.4
October	374.1
November	405.8
December	471.0
2008	
January	419.4
February	435.8

Figures are based on weekly sales which do not necessarily coincide with the exact start and end days of the calendar month.

Additional comments: in line with lotteries around the world, monthly fluctuations in sales occur as a result of rollovers, jackpot sizes and seasonal variations.

Olympic Games 2012: Marketing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the Government are providing to promote Great Britain in the lead-up to the 2012 Olympics; and who is responsible for the strategy for promotional expenditure. [202523]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 29 April 2008]*: The promotion of Britain in the context of the 2012 Games involves a number of Government Departments and other organisations, working in partnership with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games. This includes DCMS, the FCO, DBERR, and the British Council. It includes a wide range of events such as the British presence at the Beijing Games, and other activities and programmes by UK organisations and networks at home and overseas.

Part of the grants available by DCMS to VisitBritain and the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) will support Games-related tourism marketing and promotion over the period 2008-12.

VisitBritain will receive £133.3 million over the next three years for its work in international and domestic matters.

The RDAs outside London spent £29.8 million on tourism support in 2006-07, of which £3.6 million was from DCMS. They will receive £10.2 million from DCMS in the next three years. The London Development Agency spent £22 million on tourism support in 2006-07, of which £1.9 million was from DCMS, via the Greater London Authority.

The strategic context for tourism marketing and promotion was set out in the DCMS Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games, which was published last September. VisitBritain is presently preparing the details of the operational tourism marketing plan for the Games, but other organisations will also play their part in ensuring a successful boost to tourism from hosting the Olympic Games.

S4C: Al-Jazeera Satellite Television

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with S4C on the effect of its joint production with Al-Jazeera on its public service broadcasting obligations. [206069]

Andy Burnham: I have had no discussions with S4C on the effect of its joint production with Al Jazeera on its public service broadcasting obligations.

Sports: Females

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the percentage of girls and women who regularly participate in sport and physical activity. [205887]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department commissions, in partnership with several of its NDPBs, the Taking Part survey which is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over. The latest available data are from July 2006 to July 2007.

Taking Part data show that 46 per cent. of women had participated in an active sport at least once during the previous four weeks prior to completing the survey. It also shows that 18 per cent. of women had participated in moderate intensity level sport for at least 30 minutes on at least three separate days during the week prior to completing the survey. Information about the definitions can be found in "Progress report on PSA3: Final estimates from year two" at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/takingpart_estyr2.htm

A child survey was appended to the main survey from January 2006 and, in households containing at least one child aged 11 to 15, an interview was sought with a randomly selected child. Data from the first year of the child survey show that 92 per cent. of girls aged 11 to 15 had participated in an active sport during the previous four weeks prior to completing the survey, and 82 per cent. of girls had participated in this way outside school lessons.

Almost two-thirds of girls had participated in an active sport outside school lessons in the week prior to completing the survey (63 per cent.).

Sports: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to improve sporting links between the United Kingdom and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [206135]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have not taken, nor do I plan to take, any special steps to improve sporting links with Israel. There are no barriers to organisations in the UK and Israel forming sporting relations and I am aware that there have been and will be sporting relations between our two countries and I welcome this.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding from *(a)* the National Lottery and *(b)* his Department was spent on (i) school sport, (ii) the Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy and (iii) community sport excluding money allocated through PESSCL in each year since 1997. [205888]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been informed by Sport England that funding was as follows:

(i) School Sport

	Exchequer	Lottery	Total
1997-98	0	27,561,428	27,561,428
1998-99	0	50,388,919	50,388,919
1099-2000	1,432,000	34,278,425	35,710,425
2000-01	1,522,000	53,524,035	55,046,035
2001-02	7,190000	162,134,939	169,324,939
2002-03	16,899,000	65,671,181	85,570,181
2003-04	2,241,663	21,121,254	23,362,917
2004-05	2,310,440	27,612,132	29,922,572
2005-06	327,500	10,394,542	10,722,042
2006-07	72,500	2,569,359	2,641,859
2007-08	227,125	1,430,332	1,657,457

(ii) PESSCL

	Exchequer
1997-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	0
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	415,331
2004-05	7,817,183
2005-06	9,478,075
2006-07	8,185,981
2007-08	8,834,367

(iii) Community Sport

	Exchequer	Lottery	Total
1997-98	19,085,000	189,225,255	208,310,255
1998-99	17,005,000	320,705,276	337,710,276
1999-2000	19,520,000	132,623,754	152,143,754
2000-01	22,668,000	205,921,568	228,589,568
2001-02	22,829,000	386,719,865	409,548,865
2002-03	45,493,991	167,712,399	213,206,390
2003-04	17,475,000	129,294,942	146,769,942
2004-05	38,996,010	166,974,902	205,970,912
2005-06	47,870,861	82,698,275	130,569,136
2006-07	82,451,233	33,402,957	115,854,190
2007-08	79,419,745	89,993,158	169,412,903

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding from *(a)* the national lottery and *(b)* his Department has been allocated to (i) school sport, (ii) the Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy and (iii) community sport excluding money allocated through PESSCL for each year during the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. [205889]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been informed by Sport England that projected funding is as follows:

(i) School Sports and (iii) Community Sport

Sport England is currently in the process of developing and agreeing a new three-year strategy which will determine the budget for School Sports and Community Sport for the next three years. In 2008-09 Sport England expects to spend (please note the lottery figure is a projection):

	Exchequer	Lottery	Total
2008-09	86,130,502	125,438,333	203,231,844

(ii) PESSCL

The Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links Strategy (PESSCL) has now evolved into the Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP). Sport England's role within the PESSYP strategy is to increase quality and quantity provisions within a community setting.

	Exchequer
2008-09	22,836,489
2009-10	21,836,498
2010-11	24,336,498

Television: Licensing

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals to allocate a proportion of licence fee receipts to other broadcasters. [205714]

Andy Burnham: The Government have as yet made no such assessment. The work of the Convergence Think Tank (CTT) will include a review of the future financial and institutional framework for the delivery of public service content. The CTT will report its conclusions early in 2009, building on the recommendations of Ofcom's current review of public service broadcasting.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the rules governing broadcasters' use of premium rate telephone services in viewer competitions and voting; whether he plans to review them; and if he will make a statement. [205795]

Andy Burnham: I welcome the recent investigations into the compliance of premium rate services on television programmes—and the strengthening of regulation in this area. These reviews and investigations have been thorough and wide ranging and further investigations are ongoing.

The Government look to these new measures to provide a framework for effective regulation of this sector, ensuring that the highest standards are operated for all premium rate services and that consumers are fully protected.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the Ofcom inquiry into the use of premium rate services in television programming. [205796]

Andy Burnham: The inquiry is a matter for Ofcom. They are independent of Government and it would be inappropriate for me to make an assessment of Ofcom's areas of responsibility.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will ask Ofcom to refer its case files on recent cases of television broadcaster misconduct in the use of premium rate telephone services in viewer competitions and voting to the Serious Fraud Office. [205797]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for Ofcom, and the hon. Gentleman might like to raise the issue with them direct.

Tourism: Chelsea Flower Show

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will seek discussions with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on arrangements for securing the future of the Chelsea Flower Show as a major tourist attraction; and if he will make a statement; [203410]

(2) whether he has had discussions with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on the future of the Chelsea Flower Show as a major tourist event. [206070]

Margaret Hodge: The Chelsea Flower Show is a popular tourist attraction and will continue to be one for both domestic and international visitors.

I have no plans to meet with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government or representatives of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on this matter.

JUSTICE

Airguns: Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine has been of people fined on conviction for remote selling or hiring of an air weapon over the internet in each month since the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 came into effect. [206515]

Mr. Hanson: Selling a weapon by way of trade or business when transaction not face to face became an offence under section 32 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act.

This section of the Act came into effect on 1 October 2007.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine has been of people convicted of possession of an air gun or imitation firearm in a public place without legal authority or reasonable excuse in each year since the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 came into effect. [206517]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table:

Average fine amounts imposed for possession of an air gun or imitation firearm in a public place[1], all courts, England and Wales, 2004-06

£

Offence description	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Carrying a loaded or unloaded imitation firearm or air weapon in public place	126	152	85

[1] Data are given since the relevant section of the Anti-social Behaviour Act came into effect on 20 January 2004.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS, Analytical Services.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: Gloucestershire

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are housed in bail hostels in Gloucestershire. [206615]

Mr. Hanson: I understand this question to refer to the bail accommodation and support service. These are not bail hostels. The service provides accommodation in flats and houses with up to five people sharing, and support for users. As at 15 May there were two defendants and one offender at the end of sentence in the service in Gloucestershire, where there is provision for five people.

Cannabis: Misuse

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* proceeded against, *(b)* found guilty and *(c)* imprisoned for dealing in cannabis in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [200551]

Mr. Straw: The number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts for dealing in cannabis and subsequently found guilty at all courts, and sentenced to immediate custody broken down by certain age groups in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts for dealing in cannabis and found guilty at all courts, and sentenced to immediate custody broken down by certain age groups in England and Wales for the years 2002-06[1, 2, 3, 4]

Age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Proceeded against					
10-17	282	275	224	239	191
18-20	485	565	413	480	418
21 and over	1,778	1,950	1,505	1,457	1,607
Total	2,545	2,790	2,142	2,176	2,216
Found guilty					
10-17	205	198	182	180	152
18-20	339	386	313	308	269
21 and over	1,436	1,408	1,208	898	921
Total	1,980	1,992	1,703	1,386	1,342
Sentenced to immediate custody					
10-17	14	9	12	11	11
18-20	88	105	74	53	58
21 and over	703	583	490	343	272
Total	805	697	576	407	341

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 4(3) [Class 'B' Drug].
Supplying or offering to supply (or being concerned in supplying or offering to supply) a controlled drug: Cannabis.
Supplying or offering to supply (or being concerned in supplying or offering to supply) a controlled drug Class C Cannabis and Cannabis resin
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Sec.4(3).
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(3) [Class 'B' Drug].
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis.
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply Class C Cannabis and Cannabis resin.
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Sec.5(3)

[3] Cannabis was reclassified from a class B drug to a class C drug on 29 January 2004.
The data in this table include offences relating to cannabis dealing whether reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform as a class B or a class C drug.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Courts: Speech Impaired

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* protections apply in (i) magistrates courts and (ii) the Crown court for defendants with a severe stammer. [205643]

Maria Eagle: The court has a duty to ensure that defendants can fully participate in the proceedings, which will include providing assistance where necessary to those with communication difficulties. This might include, for example, ordering the use of an intermediary to assist the defendant to give evidence. A judicial practice direction was issued on 25 April 2007 giving guidance to the Crown court and magistrates courts on the treatment of vulnerable defendants. The practice direction can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/criminal/procrules_fin/contents/practice_direction/pd_consolidated.htm

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201738]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 and has since produced a sustainable development action plan setting out how the estate intends to reach carbon neutral status by 2012. This involves reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy efficiency through sustainable building construction and operation. In addition, both HM prison service and HM courts service have developed BREEAM assessments that enables the procurement of sustainable and energy efficient new builds and major refurbishments.

The spend on energy in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was as follows:

	Spend (£)
2006-07	
HM Prison Service	47,454,042
Land Registry	2,738,381
HM Courts Service	18,516,245
Tribunals Service	411,472
HQ	1,645,888
Total spend	70,766,028
2007-08	
HM Prison Service	38,945,902
Land Registry	2,404,375
HM Courts Service	20,344,511
Tribunals Service	558,913
HQ	1,341,396
Total spend	63,595,097

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203857]

Mr. Straw: In my capacity as Secretary of State for Justice, in the last 12 months I have hosted six receptions for a range of organisations and groups as follows:

4 July 2007

Reception for Senior Leaders (SCS) from the Ministry of Justice at Selborne House. Cost: £1,265.

19 July 2007

Reception for front line staff of the Ministry of Justice and representatives of a wide variety of statutory, voluntary and charitable organisations, involved in the areas of work of the Ministry at Lancaster House. Cost: £6,200.

25 July 2007

Reception for the media at Selborne House. Cost: £1,340.

1 October 2007

Lord Chancellor's breakfast. This is an annual event hosted by the Lord Chancellor to mark the beginning of the Legal Year. Senior Judiciary from the UK and overseas are invited. Cost: £31,250.

6 November 2007

Reception for Senior Judiciary following the State Opening of Parliament. Cost: £1,436.57.

15 January 2008

Reception for the media at Selborne House. Cost: £960.

Electoral Register

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to identify on electoral registers the person in any given household who *(a)* completes the electoral registration form and *(b)* certifies that the information given is true. [206304]

Bridget Prentice: The present system of household registration enables any occupant of a household to complete the prescribed annual canvass form. However, the person completing the form is required to certify that the information they supply is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge by providing a signature and by printing their name. Also electors who complete a rolling registration form on an individual basis are required to sign that form.

As all completed registration forms are held by the Electoral Registration Officer it is not necessary for details about the person completing the registration form to be identified on the electoral register. If the ERO has doubts about the validity of a person's registration details he may initiate or conduct a review. In addition, any individual may also make an objection to the ERO about another person's registration details at any time. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 also made it an offence to supply false information on an electoral registration form, which is punishable by a prison sentence of up to six months or a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Internet: Privacy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent action the Government has taken to protect individuals' right to privacy when using the internet. [206059]

Mr. Wills: The use of computerised personal information in the United Kingdom is regulated by the Data Protection Act 1998. The Information Commissioner administers and enforces the Act independently of the Government. His office produces advice for individuals about their rights and guidance for organisations on how to comply with the Act when using personal information and websites. For example, in January 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office published a Personal Information Toolkit for the general public; in June 2007 it produced guidance to data controllers about collecting personal information on the internet and in November 2007 it launched a new website to provide tips and advice on safe social networking and to help young people protect their personal information.

Government have commissioned an independent review to consider whether there should be any changes to the legislation governing data protection. The Data Sharing Review, being conducted by the Information Commissioner, Richard Thomas, and Dr. Mark Walport, will publish its report in the first half of 2008. The impact of technology was one of the issues covered by the review's consultation paper and we look forward to seeing the final report. More generally, the Government and the Information Commissioner's Office keep legislation under review in light of ever-increasing technological changes in the field of data protection.

Legal Aid Scheme

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many solicitors in each bid zone began providing legal services to clients who required legal aid for *(a)* civil law and *(b)* criminal law in each of the last five years; [194386]

(2) how many solicitors providing legal services to clients who required legal aid for *(a)* civil law and *(b)* criminal law there were in each bid zone in each of the last five years; [194387]

(3) how many solicitors in each bid zone ceased providing legal services to clients who required legal aid for *(a)* civil law and *(b)* criminal law in each of the last five years. [194388]

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many solicitors' offices provided legal aid to clients in Wales who required legal aid for *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal cases in each of the last three years, broken down by local authority. [197909]

Maria Eagle: I apologise to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) and the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams) for the time that it has taken to respond to their questions. I have now placed the information requested in the House of Commons Library.

Michael Shields

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* advice he has commissioned on and *(b)* response he has made to the recent letter from the government of Bulgaria on the possibility of a pardon for Michael Shields; and if he will make a statement. [206587]

Maria Eagle: Further advice is being sought on Michael Shields case, including on the legal issues involved. I will respond to Mr. Shields' representative as soon as I can.

Arlene McCarthy MEP recently forwarded to me a letter received from the Minister of Justice of Bulgaria and I have responded to her in similar terms to those aforementioned.

Parking Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parking penalties were issued in each area where local authorities have taken over for the police responsibility for parking enforcement in the 12 months *(a)* prior to and *(b)* following the changeover. [206303]

Maria Eagle: Figures are only available on a calendar year basis and, given the comparison requested, can only be provided by police force area once responsibility for parking enforcement was taken over by all the local authorities within a given area. As a result, the following table provides information for London (Metropolitan and City of London police combined) and a further nine forces.

Total police action[1] prior to changeover and total police action plus penalty charge notices issued after changeover[2] in respect of offence group 'obstruction, waiting and parking offences' for CJS areas that fully changed over by January 2006

Police force area	Last full calendar year prior to changeover	Total police action within that year	First full calendar year after changeover	Total police action plus penalty charge notices for that year
London[3]	1993	[4]1,224,338	1995	3,410,602
Bedfordshire	1998	34,792	2005	61,177
Cleveland	2002	17,254	2006	30,434
Cumbria	2000	5,978	2004	48,997
Dorset	2000	31,428	2004	79,248
Essex	2000	41,248	2006	118,634
Hertfordshire	1996	[4]61,050	2006	95,870
Kent	1996	[4]50,672	2002	182,589
Lancashire	2002	48,706	2005	108,771
South Yorkshire	2004	19,163	2006	82,763
Total areas		1,534,629		4,219,085

[1] Total police action is the addition of written warnings, fixed penalty notices and court proceedings.
[2] Generally, not all local authorities within the aforementioned areas accepted responsibility for parking enforcement at the same time.
[3] Metropolitan and City of London police force areas combined.
[4] Includes findings of guilt from court proceedings rather than total court proceedings.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and local authority areas. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Polling Stations: Disabled

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on the access of people with disabilities to polling stations; and if he will make a statement. [205708]

Bridget Prentice: My Department has regular discussions with the Electoral Commission on a range of electoral issues, including issues concerning the accessibility of the electoral process. The Government are keen to ensure that the electoral process is accessible to all electors. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 extends the duty placed on local authorities to review polling places to ensure that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, they are convenient and accessible for electors. Under the Act, local authorities must carry out a full review of polling places at least every four years, and representations can be made to the Electoral Commission in respect of reviews carried out by local authorities.

Under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, if certain prescribed persons, e.g. a local councillor, or 30 or more local electors, consider that the designated polling place is not suitable, they can make representations to the Electoral Commission to review the local authority's decision.

Prison Service: Emergencies

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 790-1W, on the prison service: emergencies, if he will give details of the operational emergencies declared in the last 36 months which involved bringing into immediate use additional accommodation or places at individual establishments, including *(a)* the prison where each emergency was declared, *(b)* how many additional places were consequently brought on stream and *(c)* what the use and official status of these places were prior to being put into use. [205738]

Maria Eagle: The operational emergencies declared in the last 36 months which involved bringing into immediate use additional accommodation or places at individual establishments are set out in the following table.

Date	*Establishment*	*Reason for operational emergency*	*Places*
October 2005	Durham	Population pressures required the immediate re-opening of out of use accommodation (for refurbishment) on E wing.	131
August 2006	Brockhill	Population pressures required the immediate use of accommodation at Brockhill following its conversion from a female to male prison.	12
January 2007	Pentonville	Population pressures required the immediate reinstatement of out of use accommodation (for refurbishment) at HMP Pentonville.	116
January 2007	Norwich	Population pressures required the immediate reinstatement of out of use accommodation (for refurbishment) at HMP Norwich.	100
March 2007	Wymott	Population pressures required the immediate use of additional overcrowding places agreed by the Governor and Area Manager.	16
June 2007	Blakenhurst	Population pressures exacerbated by flooding in the area required the immediate use of additional overcrowding places.	20
April 2008	Bullingdon	Population pressures required the immediate use of additional overcrowding places.	31
April 2008	Cardiff	Population pressures required the immediate use of additional overcrowding places.	15

Prisoners

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population was at the latest date for which figures are available; what proportion of the population this represents; and what benchmarking his Department has undertaken of the proportion of the UK population in prison against equivalent statistics for other EU member states. [205748]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers of prisoners in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with the total for European Union countries can be found in the following table along with the calculated comparison of prison population per 100,000 against each total.

Country	*2006*	*Rate per 100,000 population in 2006*
England and Wales	79,085	147
Northern Ireland	1,433	82
Scotland	7,111	139
European Union 25	556,039	120

The other 24 countries in the EU in 2006 were Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

These figures are taken from table 8.17 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, a copy of which can be found in the House of Common Library. Table 8.17 is a web table and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

This table includes comparative data on 44 countries.

The most recent figure for the prison population of all prison establishments in England and Wales is 81,695 at the end of March 2008 which can be found at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custody-mar08.pdf

The equivalent figure, at the end of March 2008, for the prison population of all prison establishments in Scotland is 7,704. Population data can be found at the website:

http://www.sps.gov.uk/

The equivalent figure, at the end of March 2008, for the prison population of all prison establishments in Northern Ireland is 1,477. Population data can be found at the website:

http://www.niprisonservice.gov.uk/index.cfm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release: Overdoses

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ex-offenders died from a heroin overdose within a fortnight of leaving prison in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [205443]

Mr. Hanson: Data showing the number of ex-offenders who died from a heroin overdose within a fortnight of leaving prison are not routinely collected.

The most recent research evidence from a study which reported in 2005 showed that the drug related death rate for prisoners during the year following release was 5.2 per 1,000 for men and 5.9 per 1,000 for women (Farrell and Marsden, 2005); The rate was much higher immediately after release. In the first week the rate for men was around seven times higher than the annual rate and for women around eight times higher; in the second week, the rates were, respectively, around four times and six and a half times the annual rate.

A comprehensive drug treatment framework is in place in prisons with a particular focus on reducing drug related deaths including:

the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) designed to reduce the risk through the improved quality of clinical treatment;

harm minimisation advice and throughcare services provided through the Counselling, Advice, Referral and Throughcare services (CARATs) linked to the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) help to ensure that the continuity of care for offenders is maintained following release from prison into the community; and

post-custody supervision: a number of initiatives have been put in place to reduce the risk of drug-related death following release from prison.

Secure Training Centres: Labour Turnover

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff *(a)* have been appointed to and *(b)* resigned from each secure training centre in each year since they were opened. [201709]

Mr. Hanson: The available information, provided by the Youth Justice Board, on the number of staff appointed to secure training centres each year and the number leaving, is shown in the table as follows.

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Medway Secure Training Centre—opened 17 April 1998										
Starters										
Custody staff	n/a	66	40	39	130	135	88	67	101	91
Other	n/a	30	17	12	10	8	3	7	5	5
Total	n/a	96	57	51	140	143	91	74	106	96
Leavers										
Custody staff	29	33	36	42	61	95	66	75	70	101
Other	2	1	4	7	5	6	3	5	5	9
Total	31	34	40	49	66	101	69	80	89	110
Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre—opened 3 July 1999										
Starters										
Custody staff	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	109	60	52	76	84	60
Other	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	6	5	5	12	3
Total	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	121	66	57	81	96	63
Leavers										1
Custody staff	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	31	48	52	48	45	50
Other	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	4	5	10	6	2
Total	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	38	52	57	58	51	52
Hassockfield Secure Training Centre—opened 17 September 1999[1]										
Starters										
Custody staff	—	16	22	31	65	25	32	24	55	17
Other	—	11	23	19	7	8	14	10	21	15
Total	—	27	45	50	72	33	46	34	76	32
Leavers										
Custody staff	—	10	33	23	26	25	23	17	10	15
Other	—	10	37	17	15	14	18	10	8	15
Total	—	20	70	40	41	39	41	27	18	30
Oakhill Secure Training Centre—opened 19 August 2004										
Starters										
Custody staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	234	134	83	166

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	33	28	31
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	266	167	111	197
Leavers										
Custody staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	77	93	80	100
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	28	17	24
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	82	121	97	124

[1] 19 September 1999 to 31 December 1999

Notes:

1. At Medway, Rainsbrook and Oakhill, "other staff" excludes teachers and healthcare staff, none of whom are directly employed by the STC contractors.
2. Hassockfield's "other staff" includes teachers and healthcare staff, as they are directly employed by the STC contractors.
3. The high number of joiners at Rainsbrook and Medway in 2002 and 2003 reflects the expansion of both centres from 44 to 76 beds. (Hassockfield has 42 beds, Oakhill has 80.)
4. Joiner/leaver numbers at all centres include staff who were provisionally appointed but did not actually start work with children because they did not pass the initial training course or did not receive Criminal Records Bureau clearance. Those staff did not have contact with children.
5. Rainsbrook introduced a fully automated personnel/payroll system in 2002. As data prior to this period are limited and accuracy cannot be guaranteed, they have not been included.
6. Staff figures for Hassockfield in 1999 are for appointments after 19 September, when the centre opened. Some staff were appointed prior to opening, but figures for these are not available.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205046]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice's buildings are smokefree. The Ministry of Justice has not constructed any smoking shelters on its London HQ estate in the last five years.

Walton Prison: Cemeteries

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what date the National Offender Management Service received the request to meet the costs of the exhumation and reburial of George Kelly at Walton Prison, Liverpool; [205722]

(2) what requests for interim payments have been received by his Department and its agencies in respect of work conducted in connection with the exhumation and reburial of George Kelly; and when and how they were processed; [205723]

(3) what agreement the National Offender Management Service reached on the costs incurred in the exhumation and reburial of the remains of George Kelly at Walton Prison, Liverpool; with whom the agreement was reached; and on what date; [205724]

(4) what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* training is given to personnel working in Prison Service custodial property and estates management on (i) dealing with members of the public and (ii) settlement of disputes using alternative dispute resolution; [205725]

(5) when the decision was taken to construct a car park over the grave area of executed persons at Walton Prison, Liverpool; who was responsible for the decision; what consideration was given to providing access to each grave; and if he will make a statement; [205726]

(6) what his policy is on building over graves sited on land *(a)* owned and *(b)* occupied by the National Offender Management Service; what regulations apply to building on such land; what guidance he issues on building on such land; what sanctions apply to breaches of (i) regulations and (ii) policy; and if he will make a statement; [205727]

(7) what requests his Department and its agencies have received for alternative dispute resolution of outstanding issues regarding the costs involved in connection with the exhumation and reburial of George Kelly at Walton Prison, Liverpool; and what steps were taken to *(a)* respond to and *(b)* comply with such requests. [205728]

Mr. Hanson: A request was received in November 2005 before the exhumation and reburial of the remains of Mr. Kelly. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Custodial Property Estates Section agreed to meet the reasonable costs.

Following the exhumation and reburial of the remains of Mr. Kelly, NOMS received in May 2006 invoices for the funeral directors and other services relating to the exhumation and reburial. These were settled the same month by final payment made to the solicitors who had requested the exhumation and reburial. There were two remaining claims for costs in respect of which requests for interim payments were made. The first claim related to the role of a person asked by the same solicitors to make the arrangements for the exhumation and reburial. However, no breakdown of the costs was supplied with the claim and as, despite several requests, such a breakdown was not provided no interim payment could be made. The information was eventually provided and the amount payable agreed and paid. The second claim related to the services of a psychologist. Following a meeting in August 2006 an offer to settle the claim was made that month but there was a delay in a formal response. NOMS is endeavouring to seek to settle this account appropriately.

In November 2005, following an approach by solicitors about the exhumation and reburial of the remains of Mr. Kelly, the then Department of Constitutional Affairs contacted the head of NOMS Custodial Property Estates section who agreed to meet the reasonable costs of the exhumation and reburial. Invoices submitted by those solicitors for the funeral directors and other services relating to the exhumation and reburial were agreed and paid in May 2006. The claim for costs for the role of the person asked by the same solicitors to arrange the exhumation and reburial was agreed with the solicitors and paid in January 2008. The claim made by the solicitors for the services of a psychologist has yet to be resolved.

The staff in Custodial Property Estates section dealing with estate management matters are professionally trained surveyors experienced in dealing with members of the public and all aspects relating to contracts which include alternative dispute resolution. If any specific training need were to be identified appropriate training would be arranged.

The car parking area has been in use for a considerable number of years and to search for the information about decisions, as requested, could only be undertaken at disproportionate cost, if such information is still in existence. The brick paving and sand base over the graves can be removed to facilitate exhumation of remains.

In cases where it is proposed to erect a building on land where there are graves it is normal practice for the remains to be exhumed and reburied away from the site. Such buildings are subject to the building regulations in the same way as other new prison buildings. The Coroners' Office has previously advised that there is no legislation or rules relating to burials preventing the use of such areas for car parking.

Alternative dispute resolution and other such processes in relation to two claims in respect of costs relating to the exhumation and reburial of the remains of Mr. Kelly was raised in August 2006 by the solicitors who had requested the exhumation and reburial. With regard to the first claim from the person engaged by those solicitors to make the arrangements for the exhumation and reburial, in September 2006 that person served a claim against the solicitors who then served a claim against NOMS. The claim was resolved out of court. The second claim relates to the services of a psychologist. The NOMS Custodial Property Estates Section is endeavouring to resolve this matter without the need for a process such as the alternative dispute resolution as the sum in dispute is some £1,500.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the government of Afghanistan on the status of women in that country; [204323]

(2) what discussions he has had with the government of Afghanistan on tackling violence against women in that country. [204322]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the difficult situation many women in Afghanistan still face. Our Embassy officials in Kabul regularly discuss women's rights with members of the Afghan Government, non-governmental organisations and parliamentarians, highlighting their importance.

The Government work to enhance the status of women in three main ways: through policy engagement with the Afghan Government; through support for national programmes and services, which benefit women; and through bilateral programmes.

Despite the challenges, progress has been made. Over a third of children now in school are girls. We have committed over £35 million to support the Afghan government's micro-finance programme, giving women in particular better access to finance. 27 per cent. of seats in the Lower House of the Afghan Parliament are now held by women—more than in the House of Commons, which is around 20 per cent.

Our major support is channelled through the Afghan government, since gender inequality is a deeply embedded and long-term problem which needs a strategic approach. We have worked, for example, with the government to ensure that gender equality is integrated into the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

We are also giving £500,000 to support a five-year Women's Empowerment programme (2005-10), implemented by the non-governmental organisation, Womankind. The programme focuses on promoting women's equal participation in governance, building awareness of women's rights among civil society and policy makers, and on providing educational, health, community and psycho-social support to women affected by violence and conflict.

We funded the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, with £500,000, to implement its three-year Action Plan (2006-08). A large part of the Commission's work focuses on women's rights, including documenting and tackling violence against women. In addition we have funded a non-governmental organisation, Global Rights, to produce a detailed report on domestic abuse in Afghanistan, due to be published shortly.

Bangladesh: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the political situation in Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [204335]

Meg Munn: When the Chief Adviser of the Bangladesh caretaker Government., Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, met with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in March, he reaffirmed his Government's firm resolve to hold free, fair and credible parliamentary elections in Bangladesh by December 2008. The UK welcomes efforts made by the caretaker Government towards achieving this goal. We continue to encourage the caretaker Government to ensure all commitments are fulfilled. We believe credible elections that can sustain democracy in the longer term are essential for Bangladesh.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage the Burmese government to respond rapidly to the humanitarian situation caused by Cyclone Nargis. [205767]

Meg Munn: The UK has pledged £5 million for emergency relief and we are willing to do more for the victims of Cyclone Nargis. The obstacles being placed in the way of the international donor effort by the Burmese regime are totally unacceptable.

The Government have pressed the Burmese regime to allow international assistance to be delivered to those in urgent need. We have, as chair of the UN Security Council, called for action by Burma to work with the UN and international donors and expedite access. We are pressing regional powers such as Thailand, China, India and Indonesia at senior political and official level to use their influence on Burma to accept unfettered international assistance. We have said that we would use whatever delivery mechanism they are able to negotiate with the Burmese and channel our relief effort through them. My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, is visiting key Asian capitals to mobilise support for a significant increase in the amount of assistance reaching Burma and the delta region in particular.

China: HIV Infection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of China on tackling HIV/AIDS. [204330]

Meg Munn: We have regular discussions with the Chinese authorities about HIV/AIDS. Through the Department for International Development (DFID), the Government are currently providing £30 million in support of HIV/AIDS work both to the Chinese government and also directly to seven provinces. HIV/AIDS work forms the largest part of DFID's bilateral programme in China. DFID continues to exert its influence in shaping Chinese HIV and AIDS policy and strategy, and works very closely with the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organisation and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

India: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of India on tackling *(a)* child trafficking and *(b)* the child sex industry. [204371]

Meg Munn: We discuss human rights issues with the Government of India on a regular basis. Child rights were discussed at the latest round of the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue in New Delhi on 15 February. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials discussed human rights issues with the Indian National Human Rights Commission on 15 April underlining the importance we place on it and the close watch we keep on such issues. The Government will continue to work with—and support—the Government of India in tackling all human rights issues.

Iraq: Homophobia

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the level of violence and persecution aimed at gay men in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Iran. [204334]

Meg Munn: We have serious concerns about the treatment of homosexuals in Iran and Iraq.

We are particularly concerned that homosexual activities are illegal and can carry the death penalty in Iran although we have not been able to confirm any executions that have taken place solely on the grounds of homosexuality in recent years. We are aware of concerns that some people charged and executed for other crimes (such as rape and kidnap) may have been homosexual.

Homosexuals, along with other minority groups in Iran, do experience discrimination but we do not have any evidence of a state-led campaign of persecution targeting Iran's gay community. It is difficult to get reliable information about the situation of homosexuals in Iran as the issue is not generally discussed in public.

The UK and the EU regularly raise human rights concerns with the Iranian Government. Most recently, in a demarche to the Iranian authorities on 27 April, the EU raised concerns about a report that over 30 men had been arrested when police raided a party at a home in Esfahan in February. The men were reportedly referred to a forensic medical examiner to look for evidence that they had engaged in homosexual conduct.

The UK is concerned about reports of violence and persecution of homosexuals in Iraq. We do not have any direct evidence of targeted or systematic abuses taking place against the homosexual community within Iraq, although random acts of violence have taken place. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials, together with the private secretary to Ann Clwyd MP, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Iraq on Human Rights, will soon be arranging a meeting with the Iraqi lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender group to discuss the issues and challenges that face them in Iraq.

Lebanon: Elections

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the prospects for a free and fair presidential election in *(a)* Lebanon and *(b)* the Ivory Coast. [204368]

Meg Munn: We are deeply concerned by the ongoing violence in Beirut, and elsewhere in the Lebanon, recently. Such violence makes the election of a new president more difficult than ever. A parliamentary vote, on the election of a new president, was postponed for the 19th time to 10 June. Any deal will need to find an accommodation between the two sides on the key issues of disagreement which include: the presidency; the make up of a future government and a future electoral law.

We fully support the high-level Arab League mission, which arrived in Beirut on 14 May. The UN Security Council, under British presidency, addressed the situation recently. Informal discussions have continued since then and we are working towards a formal meeting this week to ensure strong UN backing for efforts to restore calm and support democratic politics in Lebanon.

We welcome the Ivorian government's decision to hold presidential elections on 30 November 2008, with the agreement of all the major Ivorian political parties. This is a tight deadline which can only be met through a concerted effort from both Ivorian and international institutions. The UN Operation in the Ivory Coast has a mandate to certify the election process. Its most recent report on 15 April, which can be found at:

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep08.htm,

indicated that while there was a political consensus on holding elections there was still much work to be done, such as finalising the legal framework for the electoral process. It also noted the elections would bear serious risks if they were not conducted in a transparent, free and credible manner.

Spain: Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conformity of the policy of Spain on military freight crossing the Spain-Gibraltar border with Spain's NATO obligations; and what representations he has made to the Spanish government on the matter. [205416]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have raised the issues of restrictions with the Spanish Government directly and will continue to do so. We believe the imposition of such restrictions is inappropriate. Spain is an important NATO ally and we are therefore determined to work closely with Spain to find a constructive solution.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Spain on restrictions on military freight crossing the Spain-Gibraltar border; and what steps he plans to take on the matter. [205500]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* The Government have raised the issues of restrictions with the Spanish Government directly and will continue to do so. We believe the imposition of such restrictions is inappropriate. Spain is an important North Atlantic Treaty Organisation ally and we are therefore determined to work closely with Spain to find a constructive solution.

UN Human Rights Council

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the UN Human Rights Council. [204332]

Meg Munn: The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) is now fully up and running after an institution building phase begun in 2006. Achieving UK human rights priorities remains difficult with the majority of members wishing to prevent the body effectively tackling country specific problems. However, the HRC has, largely through UK/EU action, taken some encouraging steps, including special sessions on Burma and Darfur and discussions of a wide range of country specific situations during open session. These sessions are webcast and open to non-governmental organisations and interest groups.

The introduction of the HRC's Universal Periodic Review marks the first time that every UN member's human rights record will be systematically examined. The UK was one of the first countries to be examined in April. We used this opportunity to provide a model for engagement that we encourage others to follow, including by addressing the challenges we face.

The UK remains committed to seeing complementary action on human rights in other parts of the UN, in particular through the General Assembly's Third Committee. We will continue to resist those who argue that human rights are only a matter for the HRC in Geneva. They must be promoted in all parts of the UN.

We continue to see the HRC as a body that can deliver valuable results in human rights on the ground. It will take time and effort to realise this aim. The UK is ready to engage fully to see the Council increasingly fulfil its potential.

United Nations: Internet

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts at the United Nations on the regulation of access to the internet by Member States. [204318]

Meg Munn: The UN World Summit on the Information Society in 2005 reaffirmed the right of individuals to access information and encouraged governments to meet their responsibilities in ensuring equitable access to Information Communication Technology, including the internet.

In taking forward the summit recommendations, the UN Secretary-General established an Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The forum provides a framework for dialogue between governments, as well as the private sector and civil society, on a range of public policy issues relating to the internet. The UK is actively engaged in the IGF and will be represented at its next meeting in Hyderabad, India, from 3-6 December 2008.

The Government remain concerned that access to information is greatly restricted in many countries around the world. We continue to raise our concerns on this, and other related issues, as part of our ongoing human rights dialogue with other countries, both bilaterally and in international fora.

United Nations: Peacekeeping Operations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the UN troop contributor Governments on the conduct of troops on UN missions, including their treatment of women. [204329]

Meg Munn: We believe strongly that UN personnel must uphold the highest standards of behaviour. The vast majority of UN peacekeepers uphold those standards while doing important work in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

The UN is responsible for tackling any individual allegations of misconduct with troop contributing countries. We have therefore not raised this with Governments, but we do pursue the issue with the UN. The UK played a key role in the 2006 negotiations that established a model Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UN and troop contributing countries, which lays out the actions that will be taken if any troops fall short of prescribed standards of conduct. We were also involved in negotiations last year which made the MoU more robust. We support the UN Secretary-General's 'zero-tolerance' policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel and we press for language supporting that policy, and call for troop contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, to be included in all UN Security Council resolutions on peacekeeping missions. The peace support operations training that the UK provides for troops of other countries also covers matters of conduct, including the importance of protecting civilians (including women) in accordance with international law.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts at the United Nations on human rights training for troops seconded to UN missions. [204333]

Meg Munn: It is critical that UN peacekeepers uphold the highest human rights standards. Troop and police contributing countries, with UN support, are responsible for training their peacekeepers appropriately. Government officials regularly discuss with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) how to improve its training, including in human rights. The Government supports DPKO's training programmes with funding.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on a treaty on the prosecution of allegations of sexual abuse made against UN personnel, including peacekeepers. [204338]

Meg Munn: We believe strongly that UN personnel must uphold the highest standards of behaviour. The vast majority of UN peacekeepers uphold those standards, while doing important work in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

The UN has mechanisms in place to investigate, and take action, against allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, and the UN Secretary-General has a 'zero-tolerance' policy towards such behaviour. The UK played a key role in the negotiations that established those mechanisms and we work with partners to strengthen the UN's arrangements in this area. We support the UN Secretary-General's 'zero-tolerance' policy and we press for language supporting that policy, and call for troop contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, to be included in all UN Security Council resolutions on peacekeeping missions. The UK also provides financial support to the Conduct and Discipline Unit within the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to help them prevent sexual abuse by peacekeepers.

We have not discussed a treaty.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken by his Department to improve the UN's capacity for the rapid deployment of troops for peacekeeping and peace-enforcement missions. [204362]

Meg Munn: Improving the effectiveness of the UN in tackling conflict is a key objective, as set out in recent speeches by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. The UK believes that UN peacekeepers play a vital role. The Government work closely with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), including financial support from our Department's Conflict Prevention Pool on capacity building projects. In 2007-08 the UK provided over £4 million to support the training of peacekeepers.

The UK supports DPKO's proposed rapid deployment model—the Enhanced Rapidly Deployable Capacities. The critical rapid deployment capacity, for UN or other operations, will remain with nation states and regional organisations. The UK is working with international partners to develop this capacity, for example with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Response Force, the EU Battlegroup Concept and the African Union's Standby Force. The UK makes a very significant contribution, including rapidly deployable capacities, to UN-mandated operations in the Balkans and Afghanistan.

Vietnam: BBC External Services

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on funding for the BBC World Service's Vietnamese service. [205254]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 13 May 2008]*: There have been no representations received on funding for the BBC World Service's Vietnamese service.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 191937, tabled on 3 March 2008, on the Treaty of Lisbon. [205063]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (PQ 191937).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Storms

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* relevant UN agencies, *(b)* the European Commission, *(c)* non-governmental organisations and *(d)* other countries on co-ordinating the international emergency relief aid response to Burma following Cyclone Nargis; and if he will make a statement. [206360]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In addressing the crisis in Burma since Cyclone Nargis hit on 2 May, I have spoken to a number of international partners. These include: Sir John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator; Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid; Henrietta Fore, USAID Administrator and Director of US Foreign Assistance; and Josette Sheran, Executive Director of the World Food Programme. I pressed for the extraordinary meeting of EU Development Ministers in Brussels on 13 May at which I spoke to a number of my EU counterparts. I have also spoken to the Burmese and Chinese Ambassadors to the UK. I held meetings with non-governmental organisation groupings on the crisis on 7 and 14 May.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department made the first request for aircraft to take UK Government aid to Burma following Cyclone Nargis; and if he will make a statement. [206362]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The first request for aircraft to fly UK Government aid to Burma was made on 5 May.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many days after Cyclone Nargis it was before aircraft with UK Government aid to Burma first arrived in that country; and if he will make a statement; [206363]

(2) what UK Government emergency relief aid has been sent to Burma following Cyclone Nargis; and on what date each consignment arrived in Burma; [206364]

(3) how many aircraft have been chartered by the UK Government to transport emergency relief aid to Burma following Cyclone Nargis; what types of aircraft have been used; when each arrived in Burma; what cargo each carried; and who provided each aircraft. [206365]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: *The first planes carrying* UK Government aid arrived in Rangoon on the 13 May and 15 May (11 and 13 days after Cyclone Nargis). Both flights were carrying plastic sheeting which was consigned to the UN World Food Programme (WFP).

Six flights have been chartered by the UK Government so far for emergency relief aid. Details are in the following table:

Date	*Type of aircraft*	*Cargo*	*Status*[1]	*Aircraft provided by (Broker)*
2008				
13 May	IL76	8,000 sheets (consigned to WFP for use by the shelter cluster)	Landed in Rangoon 15 May 2008	Hanover Aviation
14 May	IL76	Plastic sheeting (consigned to WFP)	Scheduled to arrive 16 May at 1400 local time	Air Charter Service (ACS)
15 May	IL76	13,000 jerry cans and 5,000 plastic sheets	Due to arrive 16 May	Air Charter Service (ACS)
15 May	IL76	14 fully equipped boats	Due to arrive 16 May	Air Charter Service (ACS)
16 May[2]	IL76	8,000 plastic sheets	—	Hanover Aviation

[1] Subject to change. [2] Scheduled.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997; [198319]

(2) what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198326]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development does not sponsor any primary legislation.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203848]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in this Department for the financial year 2007-08 will be published in due course.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what poverty reduction plans which have been agreed with partner governments incorporate human rights-based benchmarks. [206273]

Mr. Thomas: Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) are a requirement for countries to receive concessional assistance from the World Bank (through the International Development Association—IDA) and the IMF (through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility—PRGF). In addition they are the basis for the provision of debt relief under the enhanced HIPC (Highly Indebted Poor Countries) Initiative. The World Bank reports that PRSPs are on the agenda of about 70 low-income countries. The World Bank website (www.worldbank.org) publishes 66 PRSPs. It would incur disproportionate expense to answer the question in full by identifying which of these include human-rights based benchmarks.

Disaster Relief

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days it took for the first aircraft transporting UK emergency relief aid to arrive at its destination in relation to each natural disaster to which the UK has responded with such aid over the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [206361]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: My Department is unable to answer this question because of the disproportionate cost this would incur.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205150]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There have been no occasions where the Department for International Development has hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in the period specified.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms the Government has put in place to ensure that any projects *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly funded by the UK in the Palestinian Occupied Territories do not contravene the rulings of the International Court of Justice relating to third state obligations not to assist or maintain an illegal situation. [205625]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development provides humanitarian support to the Occupied Palestinian Territories through the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and provides support aligned with the priorities of the Palestinian Authority, as set out in their Palestinian Reform and Development Plan. We carefully assess all of our assistance to ensure that our aid is not used to assist or maintain the situation created by the construction of the Israeli separation barrier inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory including in and around East Jerusalem.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to ensure that no UK funding for the Palestinian Occupied Territories will be used *(a)* to upgrade crossings built into the West Bank barrier where it is situated within occupied Palestinian territory and *(b)* to build permanent infrastructure at checkpoints within the West Bank. [205626]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK ensures its funds are not used to render aid or assistance to the construction of crossings built into the separation barrier where it is located within the Occupied Palestinian Territories or Israeli check points in the West Bank.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has robust monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure that our aid to the Palestinians is used for the purposes it is given for. DFID disburses funds through transparent mechanisms managed by the UN, EC, International Committee of the Red Cross, World Bank and reputable international firms.

Textiles: Working Conditions

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work his Department is undertaking to alleviate poor working conditions for textile and clothing workers in *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Cambodia, *(d)* Vietnam and *(e)* Laos. [205686]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) which assists companies seeking to improve the conditions of workers in their supply chains. ETI's member companies include leading garment retailers such as Gap Inc, Marks and Spencer, Monsoon, New Look and Zara which source a large proportion of their garments from India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. These retailers have all committed to working with their textile and garment suppliers to improve working conditions for workers making their products.

In India, ETI is supporting the National Homeworkers Group which aims to improve the conditions of homeworkers involved in embellishing fabric, such as adding embroidery or beads. Thousands of homeworkers in villages in Uttar Pradesh, one of India's poorest regions, have received training in health and safety, record keeping and improved access to insurance and healthcare. They have reported greater confidence and awareness of their rights.

DFID India has in the recent past provided small-scale support through the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to women weavers in Rajasthan, with the aim of encouraging the state government to improve their working conditions. A programme to be introduced later in 2008 will support the ILO in promoting decent work in India. This may include support to textile and clothing workers.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of learners progressed from the completion of a level 3 advanced apprenticeship to *(a)* a foundation degree course and *(b)* an undergraduate degree course in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by apprenticeship framework. [205773]

Mr. Lammy: Information is not available to answer this question. We are undertaking work within my Department to improve the data so we can better understand progression between different educational levels.

Further Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the completion rate of adults enrolled on a level three further education course was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [205530]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council publish success rates in a Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest available SFR contains data for 2005/06 and is available in the Library and at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000723/index.shtml

In 2005/06 the success rate for learners aged 19+ doing level 3 long courses in Further Education (which excludes provision delivered through Work-Based Learning or Train to Gain) was 63 per cent. This was an increase from 54 per cent. in 2003/04 and 58 per cent. in 2004/05.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many part-time undergraduate students there were in England at the latest date for which figures are available; [206274]

(2) how many and what proportion of part-time undergraduate students in England studied *(a)* between 50 and 59 per cent. of a full-time course, *(b)* between 60 and 74 per cent. of a full-time course and *(c)* 75 per cent. or more of a full-time course in the last year for which figures are available. [206315]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures show that there were 508,955 part-time undergraduate students from the UK and overseas enrolled at English higher education institutions in the 2006/07 academic year. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

The full-time equivalence of these part-time undergraduate students is shown in the table.

Part-time undergraduate students[1] by full-time equivalence: English higher education institutions, 2006/07 academic year

Full-time equivalence (Percentage)	*Number*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
Under 50.00	289,295	56.8
50.00-59.99	151,130	29.7
60.00-74.99	31,660	6.2
75.00 or more	36,870	7.2
Total	508,955	100.0

[1] Includes all students from the UK and overseas.

Notes: Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration population basis. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five and proportions are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205040]

Mr. Lammy: Accommodation and related facilities for my Department are provided on our behalf by the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Any details relating to smoking shelters will therefore be included in answers given by those Departments.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many student loans have been written off in each of the last five years, broken down by the cause of the write-off. [200281]

Bill Rammell: Borrowers domiciled in England and Wales whose loans have been written off—mainly on statutory grounds of age, death and disability—are at Table 1. Of 2.5 million loans at the end of 2006/07, the numbers of loans written off during that year represented around 0.1 per cent. of the total.

Statutory grounds for student loans to be written off (for both mortgage-style (MS) and income-contingent (ICR) loans unless otherwise stated) are:

Upon the death of the borrower, or if the borrower is in receipt of a disability related benefit and permanently unable to work;

On age grounds. MS loans with no arrears are written off when the borrower reaches the age of 50 (or 60 if the borrower was aged over 40 when he/she last borrowed). ICR loans issued before 2006/07 are written off at age 65;

For ICR loans issued after 2006/07, 25 years after students become liable to repay their loan.

Minor, residual loan balances can also be written off on other, non-statutory grounds.

Table 1: Publicly-owned income-contingent and mortgage-style loans which have been written off (rounded to the nearest 10)

Financial Year	*Age[1]*	*Deceased*	*Disabled*	*Other[2]*
2002-03	140	540	110	100
2003-04	250	560	90	160
2004-05	480	430	90	60
2005-06	580	800	120	210
2006-07[3]	1,050	700	140	1,620

[1] Loan cancellations on grounds of age have risen due to the increasing age of borrowers since the first loans were taken out (from 1990 onwards). The rise also reflects the increasing volume of loans.

[2] So far, with the exception of 2006-07 the majority of write-offs take place on statutory grounds. The increase in this category in 2006-07 reflects a bulk clearance of cases which took place that year.

[3] 2006-07 data are provisional.

TREASURY

Banks: Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the adequacy of the Basel 2 regulatory regime; whether he plans to develop a Basel 3 regime; and if he will make a statement. [204126]

Kitty Ussher: The Basel 2 framework, which makes improvements to the alignment of capital requirements to underlying risks taken, has been adopted in the EU through the capital requirements directive (CRD). The Treasury worked closely with the FSA and industry on EU negotiations on the CRD. That directive came into force on 1 January 2008. The Financial Services Authority has maintained a number of industry standing groups to deal with any issues arising from the implementation of the directive.

In October last year the G7 asked the Financial Stability Forum (FSF) to analyse the underlying causes of the ongoing turbulence in the world's financial markets. The FSF reported to G7 Finance Ministers in April, who endorsed the report. The FSF's recommendations included enhancements to the prudential oversight of capital, liquidity and risk management, including strengthening the prudential framework for financial institutions' securitisation and off-balance sheet activities under Basel 2.

The Chancellor maintains a close dialogue with the financial services sector on a wide range of issues.

Child Tax Credit: Warrington

Helen Southworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Warrington, South constituency were in receipt of child tax credit in each year since the tax credit was introduced. and how much was paid in such credits in that area in each such year. [206314]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC do not produce statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

However, estimates of the number of families with tax credits in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 in each constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are produced in Table 3 of the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Geographical Analysis' for each relevant year. These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

The number of out-of-work families includes those who are receiving the equivalent level of support via income support and jobseekers allowance.

Information on the average annual entitlement for families in each constituency is also available in Table 3 of these publications.

The same information for 2006-07 is due to be published on 20 May 2008.

Conference Centres

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department provides any *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue support to any conference or exhibition centre; and if he will make a statement. [199434]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury does not make any capital or revenue payments in support of any conference or exhibition centres.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200690]

Angela Eagle: Details of the cash equivalent transfer values of pensions for senior staff in HM Treasury and its agencies can be found in the relevant Resource Accounts. The details of the latest published accounts are as follows:

HM Treasury and Office of Government Commerce HC 518
Debt Management Office HC 989
Royal Mint HC 543
National Savings and Investments HC 639
Government Actuary's Department HC 869
HM Revenue and Customs HC 626

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198946]

Angela Eagle: Details of the working days lost by HM Treasury due to stress-related illnesses for each month from January 2006 to December 2007 are shown in the following table:

	2006	*2007*
January	142	198
February	90	163
March	90	155
April	123	123
May	125	168
June	98	192
July	78	131
August	51	129
September	97	84
October	123	121
November	150	85
December	188	89

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [200132]

Angela Eagle: The following tables and comments detail what non-geographic (0800, 0845 and 0870) telephone numbers for the public are in use by the Chancellor's Department and reporting agencies.

(a) 0800 numbers

The 0800 telephone numbers which are regularly in use are shown in the following table.

Number	*Description*	*Administered by*
0800 788 887	Tax Evasion Hotline	HMRC
0800 595 000	Customs Confidential	HMRC
0800 056 0585	Special Needs Line (textphone)	NS&I

In addition the Royal Mint has a series of 61 numbers with an 0800 prefix, which are used in rotation for marketing and advertising campaign purposes.

(b) 0845 numbers

A summary of the number of 0845 numbers is shown in the following table. This is followed by more detailed information on which 0845 numbers for the public are in use by the Chancellor's Department and each reporting agency.

Department/Agency	*Number of 0845 numbers for use by the public*
Debt Management Office	16
Government Actuary's Department	0
HM Revenue and Customs	[1]139
HM Treasury	0
National Savings and Investments	8
The Office of Government Commerce	1
OGC Buying Solutions	1
Royal Mint	6
Valuation Office Agency	2

[1] Estimated number of public facing helpline services.

Debt Management Office (DMO)

The following table of numbers appears on the DMO website which the public would have access to.

Name	*Number*
Chief Executive	0845 357 6533
Deputy Chief Executive	0845 357 6531
Chief Operating Officer	0845 357 6520
Head of Business Delivery	0845 357 6544
Head of Finance, Risk Management and Control	0845 357 6624
Head of Markets and PWLB	0845 357 6539
Co-Head of Policy Team	0845 357 6512
Co-Head of Policy Team	0845 357 6623
Senior Quantitative Analyst	0845 357 6516
Head of Gilt and Cash Dealing	0845 357 6517
Press Officer and Policy Advisor	0845 357 6532
Assistant Press Officer and Policy Advisor	0845 357 6525
Secretary to the PWLB	0845 357 6613
HR Manager	0845 357 6579
Senior Policy Advisor	0845 357 6571
Website Team	0845 357 6500

HM Revenue and Customs

HMRC's 0845 telephone numbers for public use are either to promote general helpline services, where customers instigating contact are encouraged to call, or appear on correspondence and forms, for customers to make specific inquiries. The main public facing helpline services are listed in the following table, while the full list of 0845 numbers is not held centrally and could be established only at disproportionate cost.

HMRC 0845 prefixed telephone services	*Number*
BillPay Helpline	0845 302 1423
Charities Helpline	0845 302 0203
Child Benefit	0845 302 1444
Child Benefit—Guardian Helpline	0845 302 1464
Child Benefit NI	0845 603 2000
Child Benefit (Textphone)	0845 302 1474
Child Trust Fund	0845 302 1470
Child Trust Fund (Textphone)	0845 366 7870
Construction Industry Scheme	0845 366 7899
Construction Industry Scheme (Textphone)	0845 366 7894
Contract Advice Line (IR35)	0845 303 3535
Contract Advice Line (IR35) Fax	0845 302 3535
Corporation Tax (Self Assessment Orderline)	0845 300 6555
Corporation Tax (Self Assessment Orderline) Fax	0845 300 6777
Employers Helpline	0845 714 3143
Employers Helpline (Textphone)	0845 602 1380
Employers Orderline	0845 764 6646
Flood Helpline	0845 300 0157
Foot and Mouth Helpline	0845 366 1207
Gross Registration (Bank and Building Soc. interest)	0845 980 0645
How to Pay Helpline	0845 366 7816
Individual Savings Accounts (ISA)	0845 604 1701
London Enquiry Line	0845 302 1455
National Insurance and NMW (textphone)	0845 915 3296
National Insurance Contracted Out Pensions	0845 915 0150
National Insurance Contributions Office	0845 302 1479
National Insurance Contributions Office (textphone)	0845 915 8610
National Insurance Deficiency Helpline	08459155996
National Insurance North Wales area	0845 766 0830
National Insurance Pensions (Individuals)	0845 915 0106
National Insurance Pensions (Individuals textphone)	084 5915 8608
National Insurance Registrations Number Allocation	0845 915 7006
National Insurance Registrations (Lost and mislaid cards and numbers)	0845 915 5670
National Insurance Self Employed Helpline	0845 915 4655
National Minimum Wage	0845 600 0678
National Minimum Wage Information Service	0845 845 0360
New Employers Helpline	0845 607 0143
Newly Self Employed Helpline	0845 915 4515
Online Services Helpdesk (Direct Taxes)	0845 605 5999
Online Services Helpdesk (Fax)	0845 366 7828
Online Services Helpdesk (Tax Credits)	0845 300 3938
Online Services Helpdesk (Textphone)	0845 366 7805
Online Services Helpdesk (VAT Online)	0845 010 8500
Online Services Helpdesk (VAT Online) Fax	0845 010 8501
PA YE and SA (Textphone Belfast)	0845 607 6078
PA YE and SA (Textphone Bradford)	0845 366 7818
PA YE and SA (Textphone Cardiff)	0845 302 1408
PA YE and SA (Textphone Sunderland)	0845 302 1499
PAYE and SA Bedfordshire and West Hertfordshire	0845 302 1458
PA YE and SA Berkshire	0845 366 7810
PAYE and SA Birmingham Solihull	0845 302 1437
PAYE and SA Blind Persons Allowance Helpline	0845 366 7887
PAYE and SA Bournemouth	0845 302 1451
PAYE and SA Bristol and North Somerset	0845 302 1443
PA YE and SA Cambridgeshire	0845 302 1453

HMRC 0845 prefixed telephone services	*Number*
PAYE and SA Central Yorkshire	0845 302 1467
PAYE and SA Centre 1	0845 070 3703
PAYE and SA Chapel Warf	0845 300 0627
PAYE and SA Claims Office	0845 366 7850
PAYE and SA Cornwall and Plymouth	0845 366 7807
PAYE and SA Cumbria	0845 302 1473
PAYE and SA Devon	0845 366 7830
PAYE and SA Dorset and Wiltshire	0845 302 1438
PAYE and SA East Cheshire and South Lancashire	0845 302 1463
PAYE and SA East Hants and Isle of Wight	0845 300 0628
PAYE and SA East Hertfordshire and West Essex	0845 302 1460
PAYE and SA East Lancashire	0845 302 1441
PAYE and SA Glasgow Blythswood	0845 302 1476
PAYE and SA Gloucester and North Wiltshire	0845 366 7840
PAYE and SA Greater Belfast	0845 302 1469
PAYE and SA Kent	0845 302 1431
PAYE and SA Leicester and Northants	0845 302 1442
PAYE and SA Lincolnshire	0845 302 1449
PAYE and SA Lothians	0845 302 1409
PAYE and SA Manchester	0845 302 1477
PAYE and SA Merseyside	0845 302 1459
PAYE and SA Midlands West	0845 366 7884
PAYE and SA NEMA and Humber	0845 302 1414
PAYE and SA Norfolk	0845 366 7851
PAYE and SA North and South Wales	0845 300 3949
PAYE and SA North West Lancashire	0845 302 1478
PAYE and SA North West Midlands and Shropshire	0845 366 7815
PAYE and SA North Yorkshire	0845 302 1433
PAYE and SA Northern Ireland Counties	0845 302 1481
PAYE and SA Northumbria	0845 302 1456
PAYE and SA Nottingham and Derby	0845 302 1413
PAYE and SA Oxon. and Bucks.	0845 302 1434
PAYE and SA. Scotland Central	0845 302 1448
PAYE and SA Scotland North	0845 302 1410
PAYE and SA Scotland South and East	0845 302 1484
PAYE and SA Scotland West	0845 302 1452
PAYE and SA Sefton	0845 300 3939
PAYE and SA Somerset	0845 302 1483
PAYE and SA South Essex and Central Yorkshire	0845 366 1467
PAYE and SA South Yorkshire	0845 366 7802
PAYE and SA Staffordshire	0845 302 1436
PAYE and SA Suffolk and North Essex	0845 366 7824
PAYE and SA Surrey and Northamptonshire	0845 366 7825
PAYE and SA Sussex	0845 366 7856
PAYE and SA Tees Valley	0845 366 7865
PAYE and SA Warwickshire	0845 366 7842
PAYE and SA Wear and South Tyne	0845 366 7800
PAYE and SA West Hampshire	0845 302 1400
PAYE and SA West Lancashire and West Cheshire	0845 302 1462
PAYE and SA West Wales	0845 302 1471
PAYE and SA West Yorkshire and Craven	0845 302 1432
PAYE and SA Worcester and Hereford	0845 302 1482
Probate and Inheritance Tax Helpline	0845 302 0900
Probate and Inheritance Tax Orderline	0845 234 1000
Residency National Insurance Contributions	0845 915 4811
Residency Tax matters	0845 070 0040
Self Assessment Debit Card Payment Line	0845 305 1000
Self Assessment Helpline	0845 900 0444
Self Assessment Orderline	0845 900 0404
Self Assessment Orderline Fax	0845 900 0604
Stamp Duty Land Tax Helpline	0845 603 0135
Stamp Duty Land Tax Orderline	0845 302 1472
Tax and Benefits Confidential	0845 608 6000
Tax Credits	0845 300 3900
Tax Credits (Textphone)	0845 300 3909
Tax Credits Household Breakdown	0845 366 7864
Tax Credits Orderline	0845 366 7820
Tax Credits Overpayment Hardship	0845 302 1422
Tax Credits Overpayment line (TC610)	0845 302 1429
Tax Credits Payment Helpline	0845 366 1205
Tax Credits Ready Reckoner	0845 366 7867
Tax Credits Recovery line	0845 302 1420
Tax Return Simplification Pilot	0845 302 1486
Taxback on Bank and Building Society interest	0845 077 6543
Taxes Orderline	0845 300 0504
VAT Registration and Deregistration Carmarthen	0845 758 5831
VAT Registration and Deregistration Grimsby	0845 039 0279
VAT Registration and Deregistration Newry	0845 711 2114
VAT Registration and Deregistration Wolverhampton	0845 039 0129
VAT, Excise Customs and Duties	0845 010 9000
VAT, Excise Customs and Duties (textphone)	0845 000 0200
Welsh Language Service for Tax and Tax Credits	0845 302 1489
Welsh Language Service for VAT, Excise, Customs	0845 010 0300
Yacht Arrivals/Departures	0845 723 1110

National Savings and Investments

NSI has the following 0845 telephone numbers for the public.

Helpline name	*Number*
General Inquiries/Service line	0845 964 5000
EASA—calls routed to General Inquiries	0845 366 6667
NS&I Tesco Helpline[1]	0845 366 7007
Treasurers Account inquiries[1]	0845 964 5777
Postmasters Helpline	0845 366 0040
Independent Financial Advisers Helpline	0845 971 5401
Welsh Helpline	0845 602 0637
Royal Horticultural Show Line	0845 300 1617

[1] Treasurers Account and the Tesco's helpline number will close on 30 April 2008.

The Office of Government Commerce

The Office of Government Commerce published telephone number is 0845 000 4999. By dialling this number, customers can access the OGC Service Desk which is the focal point for all customer inquiries.

OGC Buying Solutions

Buying Solutions manages customer, supplier and colleague inquiries through a single dedicated helpline service on 0845 410 2222.

Royal Mint

Royal Mint currently has six public facing 0845 numbers in operation used for receiving customer orders and inquiries shown in the following table.

0845 60 88 222
0845 60 88 300
0845 60 88 333
0845 60 88 444
0845 60 88 555
0845 60 99 666

Valuation Office Agency

VOA has two public facing 0845 telephone numbers for council tax banding inquiries, 0845 602 1507 for properties in England and 0845 600 1748 for properties in Wales.

(c) 0870 numbers

With the exception of HMRC there are no 0870 prefixed telephone services for the public which are in use by the Chancellor's Department or agencies which report to him.

Within HMRC, some investigation teams have 0870 telephone numbers, and because these appear on correspondence, they are available to the public. Details of these numbers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of reducing the level of fuel duty. [205762]

Angela Eagle: Decisions on fuel duty are made as part of the Budget process. Government policy are that fuel duty should increase each year at least in line with inflation, as the UK seeks to reduce polluting emissions from fossil fuels, and fund public services.

The Chancellor considers a range of factors when deciding rates of fuel duty, including social, environmental and economic costs. Budget 2007 therefore announced that main road fuel duty would rise by 2p per litre in 2008. However, in order to respond to short-term economic conditions, at Budget 2008, it was announced that this duty increase would be deferred to 1 October 2008.

Financial Institutions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which financial bodies which are regulated by the Bank of England have not disclosed fully their exposure to the sub-prime market failings as they affect the UK market. [201915]

Kitty Ussher: The Bank of England does not regulate banks. The Financial Services Authority supervises financial services activities in the UK under the powers granted to it in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

It is the responsibility of banks to publish annual reports that provide a true and fair view of their financial position. For listed companies, the accounting treatment for measurement and disclosure of losses in companies' annual reports, including any in relation to exposure to sub-prime, is governed by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and adopted by the EU. Most UK banks have 31 December year-ends and will have included in their annual reports for 2007 their losses as at 31 December 2007. Under IFRS, there is no specific obligation for companies to disclose separately any losses from exposure to the sub-prime market, though many banks did provide such additional disclosures in their 2007 annual reports, reflecting the materiality of the disclosures.

Any company which has its shares listed on the London Stock Exchange also has a continuing obligation to provide adequate information to the market in a timely manner in order that investors can make informed decisions. Similar arrangements apply to companies with securities trading on other regulated exchanges. With the deterioration in market conditions in relation to sub-prime since 31 December 2007, in particular in March 2008, banks, where they consider it relevant, have disclosed additional losses they have incurred in 2008 in relation to their sub-prime exposure, in accordance with these requirements.

Gaming Machines: Licensing

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of amusement arcades subject to amusement machine licence duty in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08; [205734]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of amusement arcades subject to amusement machine licence duty there will be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [205735]

Angela Eagle: No breakdown of amusement machine licence duty for amusement arcades is available.

Health

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the outcomes of the cross-Government Review of Physical Activity will be published. [205881]

Yvette Cooper: In the context of the Government's commitments to deliver on the comprehensive spending review, Olympics and Olympic legacy, and provide a world-class community sports infrastructure, a number of Government Departments are considering the most efficient and effective way of maximising the impact of investment in sport and physical activity. Findings of this work will be integrated into a number of forthcoming announcements.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199591]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has no record of any payments having been made to JP Morgan since 2002-03 when a new accounting system was introduced. Information on payments made prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Landfill Tax

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Landfill Communities Fund and its predecessor received in contributions in each year since 1997. [205731]

Angela Eagle: Annual contributions to environmental bodies in the Landfill Communities Fund were as follows:

Contributions to environmental bodies

	£ million
1997-98	74.3
1998-99	86.2
1999-2000	103.0
2000-01	121.4
2001-02	141.2
2002-03	144.8
2003-04	50.8
2004-05	49.8
2005-06	51.3
2006-07	61.1

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was received in landfill tax receipts in each year since 1997. [205732]

Angela Eagle: Landfill tax receipts are published by HM Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulllandfill

Landfill Tax: Carbon Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of reductions in carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the landfill tax in each year since 1997, excluding any savings made as a result of the Landfill Communities Fund. [205729]

Angela Eagle: The environmental impacts of Budget measures are published in the Budget document. Table 6.2 of Budget 2008 confirms that the landfill tax is expected to save up to 0.2 MtC a year by 2010.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the Landfill Communities Fund and its predecessor in each year since 1997. [205730]

Angela Eagle: The landfill communities fund aims to redress some of the environmental costs of landfill by improving the environment in the vicinity of landfill sites. Examples of the types of projects funded include the construction and repairs of village halls, repairs to churches and historic buildings, and the provision of sports facilities, cycle trails and wildlife sanctuaries.

No assessment has been made of the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the landfill communities fund.

Poverty

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition his Department uses of relative poverty; and if he will make a statement. [205624]

Jane Kennedy: The Government monitor a number of poverty indicators for different demographic groups included in "Households Below Average Income" 2005-06, published by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The definition of relative poverty underpinning the Government's objective to halve child poverty by 2010-11 uses a measure of the number of children living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median equivalised household income. Further details of this measure are set out in the HM Government public service agreement delivery agreement 9, October 2007.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of illegal cigarettes sold in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; and what proportion that was of the total number of cigarettes sold in Northern Ireland in that period. [206252]

Angela Eagle: The most recent estimates for the volume and market share of cigarettes that are illegally sold in the UK are for 2005-06 and were published by HMRC in the report 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007' which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Specific estimates for Northern Ireland are not available.

In 2007-08, HMRC seized approximately 4.6 million cigarettes in Northern Ireland compared to 591 million cigarettes for the UK as a whole.

Tax Evasion: Contracts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for legislation to provide that any organisation convicted of tax evasion will not be allowed to compete for public contracts. [206195]

Angela Eagle: The public contracts regulations 2006, which implements the EU public procurement directive, permits public authorities to exclude from a procurement process any organisation that has not met its obligations relating to the payment of taxes.

Any decision whether or not to apply such an exclusion is for the individual purchasing authority to make, having regard to the circumstances of the procurement in question.

Tax Havens: International Cooperation

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking in co-operation with other governments and international organisations to tackle tax havens; and if he will make a statement. [205886]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are committed to combating tax evasion and avoidance and is working closely with EU and OECD partners to tackle the problem. Tax havens are characterised by banking secrecy and a lack of cooperation for tax compliance purposes. A key objective therefore is to increase transparency and exchange of information. The EU savings directive and the associated agreements with non-EU countries and territories play an important part in this. The current review of the directive is an opportunity to pursue our objective. Within the OECD there is a renewed determination to push forward the process of negotiating tax information exchange agreements with offshore jurisdictions. We urge all countries, including tax havens, to meet OECD transparency standards.

Taxation: Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the additional tax revenue that would be raised in 2008-09 if the tax relief on pension contributions were restricted to the basic rate of income tax. [206199]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton, South-West (Rob Marris) on 30 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 477W.

Taxation: Public Appointments

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the members of the business-Government forum on tax are; and what criteria were used to select the members of the forum. [205595]

Jane Kennedy: The members of the business-Government forum on tax are:

Richard Lambert, Conference for British Industry
Douglas Flint, HSBC Holdings plc
Julian Heslop, GlaxoSmithKline plc
Hanif Lalani, BT Group plc
James Lawrence, Unilever plc
Andrew Shilston, Rolls-Royce Group plc
Byron Grote, BP plc
Nicolas Moreau, AXA (UK) plc
Duncan Tatton-Brown, Kingfisher plc
Andrew Maclaughlin, Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc
Michael Devereux, Saïd Business School
Parthasarathi Shome, HM Revenue and Customs
Adam Lent, Trades Union Congress

In inviting members, the Government have endeavoured to involve people who have practical experience of managing tax issues in a global context or are experts on the economics of tax.

Taxation: Small Businesses

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* small businesses and *(b)* organisations representing small businesses on membership of the business-Government forum on tax. [205593]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor made clear in announcing the business-Government forum that it would focus on discussing ways in which the tax system can provide the long-term certainty multinational companies need. This reflects both the importance of these companies to the UK economy and the fact that many aspects of global economic change most directly affect them. The membership of the forum will reflect this.

The Government do consult widely with small business on specific tax issues, for example in the current consultations on tax simplification for smaller businesses. In addition, the Small Business Forum (SBF), set up in May 2007, provides an informal mechanism for Ministers to engage with the small business community on a wide range of issues.

Taxation: Trade Unions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with trades unions on membership of the business-Government forum on tax. [205594]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have invited Adam Lent, the Trades Union Congress' Head of Economics and Social Affairs, to be a member of the business-Government forum on tax.

Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department has received on the tax credit system from residents of Hemsworth constituency in the last 12 months. [205998]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available at constituency level.

Welfare Tax Credits: Daycare

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending the child care element of the working tax credit to workless households; and if he will make a statement. [205623]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

The child care element of working tax credit is designed to help overcome the child care cost barrier that often prevents people taking up or returning to work.

Welfare Tax Credits: ICT

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the technical problems on the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) computer system which are preventing the resolution of the tax credits claim for 2004-05 by Mr. Marshall of Ferndown to be overcome;

what the technical problems are; what estimate he has made of the number of HMRC customers who are similarly affected; and if he will make a statement. [206550]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary (Angela Eagle) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report* column 1374W, which explained that the Tax Credit Office wrote to him on 6 February 2008.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199608]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has no record of any payments having been made to Zurich Financial Services since 2002-03 when a new accounting system was introduced. Information on payments made prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have been dealt with under the legacy exercise; how many have *(a)* resulted in the grant of leave to remain in the UK, *(b)* resulted in the removal of an individual from the UK and *(c)* been discovered to be the result of a duplicate file or error; and how many dependants have been granted leave to remain in the UK as the result of the grant of leave to remain to an individual. [206269]

Mr. Byrne: In her letter of 17 December 2007 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency stated that of the 52,000 older asylum cases that had been concluded, 19,000 had led to grants of leave, 16,000 had led to removals and 17,000 had been closed due to previously erroneous or duplicate records. Lin Homer is due to update the Home Affairs Select Committee on the work to clear the backlog next month.

Bird and Bird

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts were awarded by her Department to Bird and Bird solicitors in each year since 2005; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was. [201640]

Mr. Byrne: The *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of contracts awarded by the Home Department to Bird and Bird solicitors in each year since 2005 are as follows:

Year awarded	*Contract and duration*	*Value (£)*
2005-06	IPS ad hoc property legal advice	6,889
2006-07	IPS ad hoc property legal advice	7,757
2007-08	IPS ad hoc property legal advice	3,025

Crimes of Violence: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 10 years were the victims of recorded crimes of *(a)* assault, *(b)* actual bodily harm, *(c)* grievous bodily harm and *(d)* other crimes of violence in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007, broken down by police force area. [203250]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to determine the age of crime victims from the recorded crime statistics collected centrally by the Home Office.

Separate information is collected for offences initially recorded as homicide. Available data relate to homicides recorded by police in England and Wales between 2004-05 and 2006-07, and are given in the table. Data for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Homicides currently recorded[1] where victim aged under 10 years, by police force area: England and Wales 2004-05 to 2006-07[2]

	Year offence initially recorded as homicide[3]		
Police force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	—	1	—
Bedfordshire	—	1	—
British Transport Police	—	2	—
Cambridgeshire	1	—	2
Cheshire	1	1	—
Cleveland	1	1	—
Cumbria	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	2	1	1
Dorset	—	—	1
Durham	—	—	2
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—
Essex	2	1	1
Gloucestershire	1	1	—

Homicides currently recorded[1] where victim aged under 10 years, by police force area: England and Wales 2004-05 to 2006-07[2]

	Year offence initially recorded as homicide[3]		
Police force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Greater Manchester	3	3	5
Gwent	—	—	1
Hampshire	2	1	2
Hertfordshire	1	—	—
Humberside	2	1	2
Kent	3	—	—
Lancashire	1	—	2
Leicestershire	1	2	3
Lincolnshire	—	—	—
London, City of	—	—	—
Merseyside	5	1	—
Metropolitan Police	9	7	12
Norfolk	—	—	—
North Wales	1	—	2
North Yorkshire	1	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	2	—
Northumbria	—	2	1
Nottinghamshire	1	—	1
South Wales	—	1	1
South Yorkshire	2	—	1
Staffordshire	—	1	—
Suffolk	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—
Sussex	2	—	1
Thames Valley	2	2	1
Warwickshire	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	2	—
West Midlands	3	2	5
West Yorkshire	1	1	2
Wiltshire	—	1	—
Total	48	38	49

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on flights *(a)* within England and *(b)* outside the UK in each of the last five years. [200494]

Mr. Byrne: Information on flights within England alone could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's recorded spend on UK and overseas flights is shown in the following table.

Home Office expenditure on flights

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
UK	0.99	1.63	1.88	1.05	1.17
Overseas	0.42	2.59	1.65	2.19	1.39
Total	1.41	4.22	3.53	3.24	2.56

The aforementioned figures include expenditure by the core Home Office, the UK Border Agency, the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (the latter two transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 2007).

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of food and drink procured for working lunches attended by officials at which no external invitees were present in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [205522]

Mr. Byrne: An answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in her Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [181358]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is given in the following table.

Data for Blackberry and Personal Digital Assistants issued to staff for years 2005 until 2008 is shown in the table as follows.

It would not be economically viable to provide data for years 2001-04.

Blackberry and PDA

	Male	Female
2005	64	28
2006	163	74
2007	128	70
2008	4	4

In addition to these numbers there are another four PDAs issued to male members of staff since 2001, however it is not possible to specify the year they were issued.

Drugs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department were disciplined or dismissed for taking illegal drugs in each of the last five years. [205362]

Mr. Byrne: No members of staff within Home Office headquarters or the UK Border Agency were disciplined or dismissed for illicit drug taking between 1 January 2005 and 31 March 2008.

Information prior to 1 January 2005 is not held centrally within Home Office HQ or UKBA and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

No members of staff within the Identity and Passport Service or the Criminal Records Bureau were disciplined or dismissed for illicit drug taking between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2008.

Government House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Government House in Pimlico has been placed for sale on the market. [205402]

Mr. Byrne: The appointed sales agent expects to complete their due diligence and submit their disposal report imminently. A decision on timing and method of sale will then be taken.

Homicide

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of homicide there were where the killing arose from the use of *(a)* a sharp instrument and *(b)* a firearm in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [203251]

Mr. Coaker: Available information relates to the number of homicides recorded between 1997-98 and 2006-07 where the apparent method of killing was sharp instrument or shooting.

Table A: Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2], by police force area: England and Wales 1997-98 to 2006-07[3]

	Year offence initially recorded as homicide[4]									
Police force area	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	3	5	5	3	4	4	4	4	2	3
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	2	7	1	1	4	3	3
British Transport Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	1	1	4	—	1	2	5	1	2	2
Cheshire	3	3	—	—	3	2	5	3	7	3
Cleveland	1	1	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cumbria	3	1	3	3	1	2	1	1	-	-
Derbyshire	2	1	2	1	4	2	3	2	2	3
Devon and Cornwall	8	6	1	5	6	2	3	10	5	5
Dorset	1	1	1	3	—	3	6	—	—	2
Durham	3	2	—	1	2	3	—	2	3	5
Dyfed Powys	—	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	1
Essex	1	5	9	2	10	7	5	—	6	9
Gloucestershire	1	1	3	—	3	3	2	2	—	2
Greater Manchester	16	14	10	14	23	19	17	15	11	12
Gwent	—	1	1	2	2	2	—	4	1	2
Hampshire	1	3	5	4	7	9	3	7	4	7
Hertfordshire	2	1	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	6
Humberside	2	2	2	2	3	5	8	3	1	7
Kent	7	3	8	4	10	6	4	4	7	6
Lancashire	6	2	1	15	4	10	12	11	1	4
Leicestershire	1	1	—	4	2	4	9	3	3	5
Lincolnshire	—	1	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	3
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Merseyside	8	11	6	13	3	12	10	14	10	10
Metropolitan Police	62	52	68	69	68	68	61	62	56	68
Norfolk	—	5	2	4	1	—	3	1	1	3
North Wales	2	—	2	1	2	4	—	5	2	1
North Yorkshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	2	—
Northamptonshire	2	2	1	3	3	5	1	—	6	6
Northumbria	11	5	9	5	4	8	8	6	7	10
Nottinghamshire	3	6	5	4	6	3	6	6	7	7

Table A: Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2], by police force area: England and Wales 1997-98 to 2006-07[3]

	Year offence initially recorded as homicide[4]									
Police force area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
South Wales	9	9	6	3	10	1	3	4	2	7
South Yorkshire	2	3	4	4	6	7	2	7	6	3
Staffordshire	4	4	2	—	1	—	3	3	2	5
Suffolk	—	—	—	3	2	—	2	2	3	2
Surrey	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	[illegible]
Sussex	4	4	5	5	6	9	3	9	4	2
Thames Valley	7	7	8	3	9	13	3	6	7	6
Warwickshire	—	2	1	—	1	2	2	3	1	5
West Mercia	3	3	1	3	5	2	5	3	—	3
West Midlands	4	16	15	9	19	17	22	21	22	15
West Yorkshire	12	12	7	8	11	13	7	13	11	10
Wiltshire	2	—	1	—	3	2	2	3	1	1
Total	202	201	213	213	261	265	242	259	219	258

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Includes knives as well as other sharp instruments.
[3] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.
[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Table B: Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is shooting[2], by police force area: England and Wales 1997-98 to 2006-07[3]

	Year offence initially recorded as homicide[4]									
Police force area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	—	1	—	2	—	6	3	—	—	1
Bedfordshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
British Transport Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Devon and Cornwall	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Essex	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	2	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	5	1	7	11	11	6	9	7	5	4
Gwent	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hampshire	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Humberside	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Kent	2	2	3	2	2	—	2	1	1	—
Lancashire	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	—	—	—
Leicestershire	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	2	—	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	3	2	3	3	6	5	5	7	1	5
Metropolitan Police	23	18	26	26	43	31	21	24	22	29
Norfolk	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	5
Nottinghamshire	—	—	1	—	2	3	5	5	—	1
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	4
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Suffolk	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Surrey	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	3	—	—
Sussex	1	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	1
Thames Valley	1	2	1	2	1	—	4	3	1	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
West Mercia	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
West Midlands	3	5	3	3	7	9	6	6	5	3
West Yorkshire	2	4	1	3	7	1	3	3	4	2

Table B: Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is shooting[2], by police force area: England and Wales 1997-98 to 2006-07[3]

	Year offence initially recorded as homicide[4]									
Police force area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	52	46	61	72	97	75	67	70	49	59

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Includes shooting by crossbows. Excludes cases where firearm was used as a blunt instrument.

[3] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Hotels

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies spent on hotel and other such accommodation for staff (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad in each of the last five years. [200489]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office's, Identity and Passport Service's (IPS) and the Criminal Records Bureau's (CRB) recorded expenditure on accommodation is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on accommodation

					£000
		2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Home Office	UK	—	0	1,033	2,408	1,213
	Overseas	—	1,614	1,467	5,602	4,318
CRB		273	308	461	154	81
IPS	UK	525	589	619	942	1,865
	Overseas	0	1	5	10	8

The figures for the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) are included within those of the Home Office's shown in the table.

CRB cannot provide a UK/overseas split without incurring disproportionate cost.

Figures for the Home Office accommodation for 2003-04 and for UK accommodation 2004-05 were included in subsistence account codes and cannot now be separately identified.

The Department expects all official travel, and the associated accommodation, to be undertaken by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Human Trafficking: Children

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of children identified as subjects of trafficking were granted *(a)* asylum or *(b)* leave to remain in each of the last five years. [205466]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how many children identified as subjects of trafficking were granted asylum or leave to remain on other grounds is not available and could be available only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families and *(b)* individuals, including dependants, were allowed to remain in the United Kingdom under the seven year concession policy operated by the Border and Immigration Agency in each of the last five years. [205450]

Mr. Byrne: Over the years, a number of families and individuals have benefited from the provisions of the seven year child concession. However, the information on how many families and individuals have been allowed to remain in the UK under the policy is obtainable only at a disproportionate cost. It is not possible to identify these cases from others granted leave outside the rules without a manual examination of individual case files.

Immigration Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Border and Immigration Agency paid in overtime to immigration officers in each year since 1997. [193132]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested for the whole period 1997-2007 can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The total pay bill for the 12 months period up to November 2007 was £515,556,285 of which £8,622,836 accounted for overtime payments. This excludes any travel time or premium payments which may also count as overtime. The figures cover all grades including immigration officers. Overtime is monitored by business finance teams.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether mobile detention centres have been used in *(a)* pre-planned Border and Immigration Agency or UK Border Agency raids and *(b)* at the request of local constabularies following the apprehension of suspected illegal immigrants; [205458]

(2) how many suspected illegal immigrants have been apprehended by mobile detention centres; [205459]

(3) how many man hours have been spent in the operation of mobile detention centres; [205460]

(4) how much has been spent on procurement of mobile detention centres; [205461]

(5) for how many hours mobile detention centres have been in operation since January 2008; [205462]

(6) how many mobile detention centres were operational in April 2008. [205463]

Mr. Byrne: UKBA recently piloted the use of a short-term holding facility at small south coast sea ports, primarily Poole. During this period, the merit of using this type of facility for both pre-planned operations and to apprehend illegal immigrants was considered. A version of this vehicle, informed by the earlier pilot but with a different specification is currently being developed to meet the needs of our enforcement teams. UKBA is on track to pilot the new vehicle during autumn 2008 in the Northampton area. Funding for this trial will be from within existing resources and is commercial in confidence.

Licensing Act 2003: Prosecutions

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were under section 149 of the Licensing Act 2003 in each year since its entry into force. [206103]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The number of prosecutions under section 149 of the Licensing Act 2003 are contained within the following table. Additionally, there were 104 penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued under section 149 of the Licensing Act 2003 in 2005, and a further 133 PNDs issued in 2006.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under section 149 of the Licensing Act 2003, England and Wales, 2005[1] to 2006[2,3]

	Year	*Number*
143/82	2005	0
143/83	2006	21

[1] The Licensing Act 2003 came into effect from 24 November 2005. There were no prosecutions under section 149 of the Act in that year.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
CJEA-OCJR

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures she has implemented to assess the effectiveness of the policy of deporting foreign prisoners on completion of their sentences; and if she will make a statement. [205367]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* We have made it perfectly clear that our objective is that foreign national prisoners should face deportation when they meet the relevant criteria and that deportation should happen as early as possible in their sentence. Over 4,200 foreign national prisoners have been removed or deported from the UK in 2007. This means that the UK Border Agency has removed over 80 per cent. more foreign national prisoners than in 2006.

From this summer the agency will begin commencement of the automatic deportation provisions contained in the UK Borders Act 2007. The Act places a duty on the Secretary of State to make a deportation order in respect of a non-European economic area national who has been sentenced to either a period of imprisonment of at least 12 months or a period of imprisonment of any length for a particularly serious offence, as listed under section 72 of the Nationality and Asylum Act, 2002). The provisions enable the agency to speed up the removals process by ensuring that unless the foreign criminal has an arguable asylum or human rights claim, they will only have a right of appeal from outside the UK.

Passports: Interviews

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many personal passport interviews have been held in each passport interview office. [202249]

Jacqui Smith: During the past 12 months there has been a gradual build-up in capacity of the interview office network to ensure operational safety and maintenance of high customer service standards during the roll-out. The following shows the number of interviews conducted during this period of roll-out of the new capability:

Interview office	*Passport interviews completed*
Aberdeen	455
Aberystwyth	167
Andover	390
Armagh	227
Belfast	1,789
Berwick on Tweed	97
Birmingham	6,901
Blackburn	1,489
Bournemouth	774
Brighton	0
Bristol	1,309
Bury St Edmunds	435
Carlisle	417
Chelmsford	1,752
Cheltenham	954
Coleraine	384
Crawley	1,157
Derby	1,867
Dover	537
Dumfries	172
Dundee	518
Edinburgh	1,138
Exeter	718
Glasgow	3,659
Inverness	237
Ipswich	821
Kendal	420
Kings Lynn	294

Interview office	*Passport interviews completed*
Kingston upon Hull	1,056
Leeds	4,010
Leicester	1,309
Lincoln	993
Liverpool	3,471
London	24,633
Luton	1,789
Maidstone	1,205
Manchester	5,829
Middlesbrough	1,603
Newcastle	3,398
Newport	3,343
Newport IOW	207
Northampton	1,062
Norwich	732
Oban	0
Omagh	181
Oxford	664
Peterborough	1,873
Plymouth	821
Portsmouth	1,638
Reading	1,778
Redruth	304
Ripon	159
Scarborough	256
Selkirk	83
Sheffield	3,229
Shrewsbury	647
Sleaford	221
South Molton	186
St Austell	236
Stirling	433
Stoke on Trent	1,455
Swansea	1,098
Swindon	517
Warwick	864
Wick	65
Wrexham	733
Yeovil	637
York	430

Public Order Offences: Airports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from airport operators on threats to public order arising from overcrowding or delays in processing passengers. [193122]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency regularly engage with all airport operators throughout the country to ensure that arriving flights are managed effectively, that passengers are processed efficiently.

Specific approaches in relation to overcrowding have been made by BAA Glasgow and the airport operators at Stansted.

Work Permits

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people granted entry into the United Kingdom on a working holiday visa have *(a)* lost their immigration status and *(b)* had to return to their country of origin in order to reapply for entry into the UK since the introduction of the points-based system. [205451]

Mr. Byrne: The working holidaymaker scheme (WHS) will be abolished later this year when the new Youth Mobility Scheme under the Points-Based System (PBS) is launched. All those who have valid working holiday visas granted before the abolition of the scheme will not lose their working holidaymaker status, and will be able to complete their working holiday.

Working holidaymakers will remain able to switch in country into the Innovator or Businesspersons categories until those categories are closed down at the end of the summer, and those eligible under the current immigration rules to switch into employment in shortage occupations will be able to do so until the work permits provisions are closed down in the autumn. Since under the PBS it will not be possible to switch from Tier 5: youth mobility into Tier 1: highly skilled migrants, we announced, in anticipation of that, there would be no switching from the WHS into Tier 1 in our Statement of Intent, published on 5 December 2007. Working holidaymakers who wish to work in the UK as highly skilled migrants therefore need to return to their home country to apply for the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) before it is closes at the end of the summer, or for Tier 1 (General) once HSMP has been closed. There are no figures available for how many working holidaymaker have returned home to apply for HSMP entry clearances.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted working holiday visas in each of the last five years. [205452]

Mr. Byrne: The total number of working holidaymaker visas issued globally in each of the last five years for which visa statistics have been published are as follows:

	Number
2001-02	46,078
2002-03	49,365
2003-04	59,822
2004-05	69,504
2005-06	52,600

Source:
Annual Entry Clearance Statistics, UKBA Visa Services website.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many abortions at 24 weeks gestation and later there were in England in 2007; [204476]

(2) how many *(a)* second, *(b)* third, *(c)* fourth and *(d)* fifth abortions were carried out in England and Wales in 2007. [205101]

Dawn Primarolo: The annual 2007 Abortion Statistics will be published by the Department of Health in June 2008.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 442W, on abortion, what estimate he has made of the cost of providing a copy of his Department's file CPO 2/29 David Amess's Abortion (Amendment) Bill; how many parts the file consists of; and if he will make a statement. [205000]

Dawn Primarolo: The answer of 30 April 2008 was based on the cost of providing both sets of requested files. The cost of providing a copy of file CPO 2/29 does not incur disproportionate cost. Copies of the file have now been placed in the Library. The file consists of one volume only and the majority of the contents have been withheld. The individual reasons for this are stated within the copy of the file.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake research into the effects of abortion on the mental health of women; and if he will make a statement. [206127]

Dawn Primarolo: Officials from the Department are working with the Royal College of Psychiatrists to discuss what further work might be undertaken in the light of their draft position statement.

Ambulance Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new ambulances were purchased by the NHS in each of the last five years. [206344]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. The purchasing of ambulances is a matter for national health service ambulance trusts to manage in order to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how each ambulance service performed against targets for *(a)* category A eight-minute response, *(b)* category A 19-minute response and *(c)* category B 19 minute response in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [206562]

Mr. Bradshaw: The ambulance response time data that is collected, and which includes performance against targets for category A eight-minute and 19-minute responses, and category B 19-minute responses is published annually in the KA34 statistical bulletin. Ambulance response time data for 2007-08 is planned for publication by the Information Centre for health and social care in June 2008.

The latest KA34 statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07" was published in June 2007 and copies are available in the Library and on the Information Centre for health and social care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statisticsanddatacollections/auditsandperformance/ambulance/ambulanceservices-england-2006-07

Blood: Medical Treatments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on a national cord blood donation programme. [206185]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is conducting a review, including a dialogue with stakeholders, to examine current United Kingdom practice on the collection and use of umbilical cord blood and to compare this practice with other countries. This analysis will be used to inform future policy on cord blood.

Cancer: East of England

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mortality rate for head and neck cancers was in *(a)* the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich *(b)* Ipswich Hospital, *(c)* Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, *(d)* Colchester Hospital and *(e)* Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge in each of the last three years. [205401]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rate for head and neck cancers was in (a) the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich (b) Ipswich Hospital, (c) Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, (d) Colchester Hospital and (e) Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge in each of the last three years. (205401)

It is not possible for ONS to calculate mortality rates for specific conditions for individual hospitals, as there are no readily available data for the denominator populations.

Analyses of mortality rates for specific cancers, including cancer of the brain, and cancer of the lip, oral cavity and pharynx, are undertaken annually by ONS and are reported for England and Wales as a whole. The latest figures currently available are for the year 2006.[1]

[1] Death rates per million population for England and Wales, by selected underlying cause, sex and age group are available from the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=618&Pos=&ColRank=l&Rank=208

Data for 2004-2006 are available in the following volumes and tables:

2004: DH2 no. 31, table 4

2005: DH2 no. 32, table 4

2006: Mortality Statistics: Deaths registered in 2006, table 8

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on research and development of anti-cancer surgical procedures in each of the last five years. [206049]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The available information is shown in the following table.

Departmental expenditure on cancer surgery research

	£ million
2002-03	3
2003-04	3
2004-05	2.9
2005-06	2.9
2006-07	3.6

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time, including a substantial number concerned with surgical treatment of cancer, are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

The departmental expenditure figures shown in the table relate only to national research programmes.

The Medical Research Council (MRC), one of the main agencies through which the United Kingdom Government support medical and clinical research, are currently funding a broad portfolio of cancer research that includes early stage trials and basic and underpinning research. Most of the MRC-funded cancer trials relate to combination therapies, although the MRC does support a small number of trials where surgery is a critical element of the intervention.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204717]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp

The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008.

At April 2008 the Department met three of the four civil service diversity targets:

		Percentage
Target	*Civil service*	*Department of Health*[1]
Women in the senior civil service (SCS)	37.0	40.6
Women in top management posts (SCS2 and above)	30.0	26.9
Ethnic minority staff in the SCS	4.0	8.5
Disabled staff in the SCS	3.2	4.7

[1] Including its agencies

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201724]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The Act came into force on 1 January 2005. The following table sets out, for 2005 and 2006, figures for the Department drawn from the statistical reports listed. The figures shown for 2007 are drawn from statistics published by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for each quarter in 2007.

	Resolvable Requests[1]		
	Responses provided		
	Within 20 days	*Percentage "in time"*	*Exemption applied*
2005	813	71	223
2006	1,154	89	249
2007	1,113	91	258

[1] Resolvable requests are all those where it would have been possible to provide a substantive response. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance to the requester, since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

The MOJ publishes quarterly and annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 ("Freedom of Information Annual Report 2005: Operation of the FOI Act in Central Government") and 2006 ("Freedom of Information Act 2000: Second Annual report on the operation of the FOI Act in Central Government 2006"). These reports are available in the Library and can be found at:

www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformation quarterly.htm

The published reports provide statistics on "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information on requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198937]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not record sickness absence due to stress, but uses a broader category of "mental health, including depression, anxiety and potential stress-related problems". We do not monitor working days lost by reason each month, but produce information on a rolling year basis. The total number of working days lost for this reason in the calendar year 2007 was 2,097.

The Department has recently improved its internal reporting of sickness absence by reason by drawing information direct from its payroll system. This was in response to concerns that some absences on its human resources system were not being closed properly, leading to absence levels being overestimated. The 2006 figure of 4,305 working days lost is therefore an overestimate and not directly comparable with 2007.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198948]

Mr. Bradshaw: Until recently the Cabinet Office produced annual reports of sickness absence across the civil service. Recent figures taken from these on average working days lost (AWDL) due to sickness per member of staff in the Department are:

		Coverage	*AWDL*
2006-07	Financial year	Core Department only	6.5
2005	Calendar year	Core Department only	7.0
2004	Calendar year	Department and its agencies	3.8
2003	Calendar year	Department and its agencies	5.4
2002	Calendar year	Department and its agencies	4.7

The change in the figures from calendar years to financial year between 2005 and 2006-07 reflects a change in the annual period covered by the reports. The change from the Department and its agencies to the Core Department only between 2004 and 2005 reflects a change in the level of aggregation of information in the reports.

Drugs: Misuse

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned into the *(a)* levels and *(b)* implications for public health of cocaine abuse in urban areas. [201622]

Dawn Primarolo: Provision of trend data on the level of use of cocaine and other illegal drugs is a matter for the Home Office.

Cocaine is a class A drug and its harmful effects on the health of individuals are well known. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs keeps the available evidence on the harms of cocaine, and other drugs, under review. Through campaigns such as Frank, the Department will continue to promote the message that cocaine use is harmful and should be avoided.

Electromagnetic Fields: EU Law

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he has had with his European counterparts on the revision of the Physical Agents (Electromagnetic Fields) Directive; and when he expects the proposal for a revised Directive to be brought forward. [204229]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

There have been no ministerial discussions with European counterparts. However, officials from the Health and Safety Executive have recently met with representatives of the European Commission, and also those of other member states and interested stakeholders, to discuss the way forward for this directive. The European Commission has indicated that it intends to carry out a full impact assessment and will engage in social dialogue before publishing a proposal for a revised directive. This is unlikely to emerge before 2010.

Food: Salt

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population which consumes six grams or less of salt per day. [206112]

Dawn Primarolo: The last estimate of salt intakes, via urinary analysis, which was carried out in 2005-06 suggests that 11 per cent. of men and 30 per cent. of women, aged 19 to 64 years, consumed an average of 6 grams of salt or less per day.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance the Food Standards Agency provides to specific sub-groups of the population on dietary salt intake. [206113]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) recommends an average intake of 6 grams of salt a day for adults and children over the age of 11. Lower recommendations have been set, pro rata, for children under that age.

Guidance on achieving these recommendations is on the FSA's website at:

www.salt.gov.uk

in written resources, and has been made more widely available though the FSA's mass media campaigns which have included specific projects targeted at providing information to particular sub groups such as parents, children, ethnic minorities and older people.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of its joint campaign with the Food Standards Agency to reduce average daily salt intake. [206158]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has in place a programme to monitor the effectiveness of its consumer campaign and reductions in average population daily salt intakes as a result of the overall salt reduction programme.

Evaluations of the three-phase consumer campaign have shown that the number of consumers claiming to be cutting down on salt increased to as much as one-third. Since the start of the campaign there has also been a 10-fold increase in awareness of the 6 grams (g) a day message and the number of consumers trying to cut down on salt by checking the label has doubled.

The results of a urinary analysis survey that took place in 2005-06 showed a small but significant fall in the average population daily salt intake of 0.5 g. Further urinary analysis survey results are expected in July 2008.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued to primary care trusts on the location of GP-led health centres within their catchment area. [205216]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) have been asked to follow a small number of core criteria for the general practitioner (GP)-led health centres, one of which is ensuring the new services are in an easily accessible location. It is, ultimately, for PCTs to identify the best location for these new services following consultation with patients, GPs and others to reflect local needs and preferences.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether representatives of his Department are holding regular meetings with representatives of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities on the implementation of his Department's plans for a new GP-led health centre in each primary care trust area. [205244]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is supporting primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs) with a series of regional workshops which focus on the different stages of procurement. There are a number of programme based meetings within SHAs' remit which Departmental officials are able to attend.

Health Services: Cannabis

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to put in place for a large-scale public health campaign on cannabis use. [202734]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department continues, through campaigns such as Frank, to make the public aware of the health harms associated with cannabis use.

In July 2007, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) were asked by the Home Secretary to reassess the medical and social scientific basis of the classification of cannabis in the light of real public concern about the potential mental health effects of cannabis use.

The ACMD report, "Cannabis: Classification and Public Health" (2008), was published in May 2008 and made a number of recommendations, including recommendations on public awareness, and we will update and refresh our messages on cannabis in light of these recommendations.

Currently public health messaging is dealt with separately by the four devolved Administrations. However, through the four United Kingdom chief medical officers, we will explore how we can harmonise the cannabis public health message and share best practice and lessons learned around the UK.

Additionally, we will shortly be publishing an expert report on the health risks associated with the use of both cannabis and tobacco, which will also feed into the updating of our messages on the harms caused by cannabis.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inpatient beds there are in each NHS hospital in England; and how many outpatients were seen in each hospital in each of the last three years. [203518]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Greater London

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated by *(a)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Greenwich, *(b)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(c)* Princess Louise Hospital, Bromley and *(d)* University College Hospital, Lewisham in (i) 1997 and (ii) the last year for which figures are available. [205339]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested. Data are not collected at individual hospital level but by national health service trust. The trusts that manage the specified hospitals are, respectively, Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust, Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust and The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust. We have assumed that my hon. Friend means the Princess Royal University Hospital, which is part of Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust, rather than Princess Louise Hospital, which is in Kensington, and the University Hospital, Lewisham, rather than the University College Hospital.

In addition, we are unable to identify the number of patients treated. The following table therefore provides data for finished admission episodes (FAEs) for these trusts. A FAE is a period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients as a person may have more than one admission within the year. The latest available data are for 2006-07.

Total admissions to hospital for 2006-07 and 1997-98, for Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust, Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust and The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust

	Total FAEs	
Trust name	*1997-98*	*2006-07*
Queen Elizabeth hospital NHS trust	36,279	60,382
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS trust	39,417	39,211
Bromley hospitals NHS trust	49,395	60,700
The Lewisham hospital NHS trust	34,824	54,613

[1] For 2006-07, the figure for Bromley hospitals NHS Trust includes data for the Orpington Treatment Centre.

Notes:

1. A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

3. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

4. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Intensive Care

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* intensive care and *(b)* high dependency unit beds were available for (i) children and (ii) adults within primary care trusts in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [204590]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data is not available in the format requested as the data is collected from NHS providers and not on a commissioner basis. The data from the bi-annual adult critical care provision census (KH03A), which began in March 1999, does not collect data broken down by adult or children. The data from each census has been placed in the Library.

Intensive Care: Greater London

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of occasions in each London primary care trust when a patient could not be accommodated in a *(a)* intensive care and *(b)* high dependency unit because of the lack of an available bed in each year since 1997. [204609]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about the number of occasions when patients could not be accommodated in intensive care or high dependency units because of a lack of available beds is not collected centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to assess the number of critical care beds needed to meet the demands of their population. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this issue locally.

The latest available information shows that in January 2008, there were 3,473 critical care beds in England. This is 114 (3.2 per cent.) more than in January 2007 and 1,111 (47 per cent.) more than in January 2000, when there were 2,362 beds.

Interpreters

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on interpreters in the last 12 months; and on which languages. [202740]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on the costs for language interpreters. The requirement for language interpreters is at a local level. In some locations where there are sizeable black and minority ethic communities, spending by national health service organisations on language interpreters will be significant.

NHS organisations are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. As a result, there is no information on overall NHS spending on this service.

When planning interpretation and translation services, NHS organisations should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

Medical Examinations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to widen accessibility of health advice and check-ups for NHS patients. [200978]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The Government are committed to improving services, care and advice to national health service patients. As part of that, the general medical services contract requires general practitioner (GP) practices to: invite all newly registered patients for a consultation within six months of registration; provide, on request, a consultation to all patients aged 75 or over who have not had a consultation within the last 12 months and provide, on request, a consultation for patients aged 16 to 74 who have not had a consultation within the last three years.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) rewards practices for inviting patients with long-term conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, asthma and mental illness to regular check-ups and for providing advice on health and treatment. QOF also rewards practices for recording blood pressure and smoking status and for treating high blood pressure and supporting patients to quit smoking.

The Government are committed to implementing regular health checks for learning disabled patients and has developed and published a framework to support primary care trusts in commissioning primary care services for people with learning disabilities, including annual health checks.

The NHS LifeChecks programme is currently developing LifeChecks for teenagers, early years and mid-life. Using a straightforward questionnaire approach, the NHS LifeChecks will help users assess their current lifestyle behaviour, provide information on what to change, how to change and assist them in setting behaviour change goals. The NHS LifeChecks will provide information about local services and a way of sharing the results of the questionnaire with health professionals. NHS LifeChecks will be delivered via the NHS Choices website, the public digital information service for the Department and the NHS.

NHS Choices can be found at:

www.nhs.uk

and was launched last year as a digital health information service to provide the public with accessible information about treatments, conditions and well-being. The website includes a complete guide to NHS services together with comparative data about hospital performance. Directories of services including GPs, dentists and hospitals are searchable by postcode to help the public identify appropriate local providers. The service also provides advice on major health topics such as obesity and giving up smoking.

Users can now register with NHS Choices to receive regular health information and advice on topics of their choice.

NHS Direct provides accessible 24/7 telephone, online and digital services providing the public with advice/information about health, health services and self-care.

NHS Connecting for Health is delivering a single electronic health record for life which will improve accessibility to appropriate care, particularly for some hard-to-reach groups. It will also improve the ability to deliver large-scale screening programmes. As part of this service, HealthSpace will provide online secure access for patients to their summary care record. Academic research has also been commissioned into health literacy to better understand what needs to be done to help patients understand their record and access appropriate advice.

NHS Connecting for Health is also supporting the development of telecare and telehealth services, which provide personalised advice and support to patients, and through collaboration with industry and other providers is driving standards for interoperability that will enable greater choice, and support services tailored to a diverse range of personal needs.

Medical Treatments: Finance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to allow hospitals to invoice GPs in respect of their patients who receive primary care advice from the hospital trust. [204667]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 May 2008]*: We have no current plans to do so.

Medical Treatments: Information Services

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that patients have timely access to all information that they need to make informed decisions about their treatment. [204834]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Choices website (www.nhs.uk), launched in June 2007, is the Department's and national health services' public facing online service. The service already receives over 2 million visits per month and provides convenient, timely access for patients to information on treatment decisions.

NHS Choices is for, the first time and in one place, bringing together and making easily accessible to patients comparative information on NHS and independent hospitals. Through its 'Your Thoughts' facility, it is giving patients the opportunity to comment on treatment received—and providers the opportunity to respond. In addition, the website enables patients to have access to the same high quality evidence as doctors about which treatments are most effective.

NHS: ICT

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will visit Worthing hospital to discuss the CERNER IT system with clinicians; [205551]

(2) whether the ministerial letter of 1 May 2008 to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest, reference MS (H) 103135, included comment on contribution by the clinical lead for IT, Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust; [205552]

(3) with reference to the ministerial letter of 1 May 2008 to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest, reference MS (H) 103135, if he will name the clinicians in Worthing who hold in high esteem the clinical functionality of the CERNER Millennium software; [205553]

(4) at which sites in the UK the CERNER Millennium software has been successfully installed. [205554]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are aware of the concerns expressed by clinicians at Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust about the Cerner IT system that has been installed at that trust. I have arranged for the Department's Director of Informatics and Interim Director of Programme and Systems Delivery to visit Worthing hospital at the earliest opportunity to address with clinicians locally the concerns that have been raised by the hon. Member. I will also write to him shortly to explain the plans that are in place to further develop and improve the Cerner Millennium product, its functionality, and its ease of use.

NHS: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to incorporate information on patients' nutritional status in summary care records. [206666]

Mr. Bradshaw: Initially, a patient's summary care record (SCR) will only contain details of their current medications, and any allergies or adverse reactions to medications. It is envisaged that it will then be built over time, with the patient's express permission, to include any other relevant health information.

This approach to adding information to the SCR will be among issues to be reviewed by the summary care record advisory group in light of the recently published independent evaluation of the SCR early adopters programme in order to inform the future roll-out of the SCR.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members are of each clinical working group for the NHS Next Stage review in the South Central NHS Region; and what clinical appointment each member holds. [205647]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Each strategic health authority (SHA) is responsible for their eight local clinical pathway groups. Lists of members and their clinical roles should be sought directly from South Central SHA.

Nutrition: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were referred to weight management programmes in each strategic health authority in each of the last three years. [206078]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available centrally.

Obesity: Surgery

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average wait for gastric bypass surgery was in each hospital trust in the last period for which figures are available. [206080]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

The table quotes both median and mean figures. Median figures are a better proxy to the time waited by the majority of people as mean may be artificially increased by a small number of long wait.

Perinatal Mortality

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many occurrences of *(a)* stillbirth, *(b)* perinatal mortality and *(c)* neonatal mortality there were in each NHS trust in the last financial year for which figures are available. [205201]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many occurrences of (a) stillbirth, (b) perinatal mortality and (c) neonatal mortality there were in each NHS Trust in the last financial year for which figures are available. (205201)

Figures by NHS Trust and financial year are not readily available and can only be produced at a disproportionate cost.

The number of (a) stillbirths, (b) perinatal deaths and (c) neonatal deaths registered in 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available) by Primary Care Trust are given in the attached table.

Number of stillbirths, perinatal and neonatal deaths by PCT in England, 2006

PCT	*Number of still births*	*Number of perinatal deaths*[1]	*Number of neonatal deaths*[2]
England	3,418	5,107	2,238
North East SHA			
County Durham	29	47	25
Darlington	8	15	9
Gateshead	7	15	11
Hartlepool	7	10	8
Middlesbrough	8	13	6
Newcastle	18	22	6
North Tees	14	24	13
North Tyneside	7	9	5
Northumberland	15	19	4
Redcar and Cleveland	10	17	9
South Tyneside	13	18	6
Sunderland Teaching	20	26	9
North West SHA			
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	20	34	19
Blackburn with Darwen	12	16	7
Blackpool	10	19	14
Bolton	28	40	17
Bury	11	19	9
Central and Eastern Cheshire	23	34	12
Central Lancashire	30	49	24
Cumbria	15	24	11
East Lancashire	29	37	13
Halton and St. Helens	29	44	22
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	10	20	11
Knowsley	8	11	3
Liverpool	31	47	21
Manchester	38	56	22
North Lancashire	17	27	10
Oldham	21	33	18
Salford	17	24	9

Number of stillbirths, perinatal and neonatal deaths by PCT in England, 2006

PCT	*Number of still births*	*Number of perinatal deaths*[1]	*Number of neonatal deaths*[2]
Sefton	15	24	11
Stockport	18	23	7
Tameside and Glossop	21	31	14
Trafford	11	21	13
Warrington	10	15	8
Western Cheshire	12	25	15
Wirral	20	30	12
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA			
Barnsley	14	21	7
Bradford and Airedale	54	87	42
Calderdale	19	25	9
Doncaster	15	29	21
East Riding of Yorkshire	17	22	6
Hull	19	35	18
Kirklees	30	49	26
Leeds	55	84	39
North East Lincolnshire	9	16	9
North Lincolnshire	7	9	4
North Yorkshire and York	34	54	24
Rotherham	22	27	9
Sheffield	29	49	27
Wakefield District	19	29	13
East Midlands SHA			
Bassetlaw	10	14	5
Derby City	19	25	6
Derbyshire County	35	48	24
Leicester City	43	63	28
Leicestershire County and Rutland	39	60	29
Lincolnshire	32	50	27
Northamptonshire	51	77	34
Nottingham City	20	33	22
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	38	57	26
West Midlands SHA			
Birmingham East and North	50	83	40
Coventry Teaching	21	29	14
Dudley	21	33	18
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	34	65	40
Herefordshire	11	14	5
North Staffordshire	11	13	2
Sandwell	26	51	31
Shropshire County	13	20	10
Solihull	10	15	6
South Birmingham	25	49	28
South Staffordshire	36	61	32
Stoke on Trent	20	37	19
Telford and Wrekin	10	16	8
Walsall Teaching	12	24	14
Warwickshire	27	39	15
Wolverhampton City	21	35	16
Worcestershire	31	39	13
East of England SHA			
Bedfordshire	25	31	8
Cambridgeshire	24	38	18
East and North Hertfordshire	27	40	17
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	10	14	5
Luton	29	41	13

Number of stillbirths, perinatal and neonatal deaths by PCT in England, 2006

PCT	*Number of still births*	*Number of perinatal deaths*[1]	*Number of neonatal deaths*[2]
Mid Essex	10	18	11
Norfolk	34	60	33
North East Essex	21	30	12
Peterborough	18	26	10
South East Essex	12	23	14
South West Essex	35	48	19
Suffolk	24	33	13
West Essex	10	14	6
West Hertfordshire	28	37	12
London SHA			
Barking and Dagenham	23	27	7
Barnet	24	35	11
Bexley	24	29	9
Brent Teaching	33	50	22
Bromley	20	26	7
Camden	17	22	5
City and Hackney Teaching	25	35	14
Croydon	34	53	22
Ealing	41	50	14
Enfield	32	50	24
Greenwich Teaching	31	43	16
Hammersmith and Fulham	8	16	11
Haringey Teaching	27	40	19
Harrow	22	28	8
Havering	16	24	9
Hillingdon	21	23	6
Hounslow	27	34	8
Islington	21	32	11
Kensington and Chelsea	14	15	2
Kingston	9	11	4
Lambeth	29	48	23
Lewisham	24	37	16
Newham	35	49	27
Redbridge	28	42	16
Richmond and Twickenham	17	19	3
Southwark	37	58	26
Sutton and Merton	32	51	22
Tower Hamlets	25	32	11
Waltham Forest	31	46	19
Wandsworth	21	29	13
Westminster	14	20	11
South East Coast SHA			
Brighton and Hove City	16	24	14
East Sussex Downs and Weald	11	19	11
Eastern and Coastal Kent	42	57	20
Hastings and Rother	9	14	6
Medway	20	26	10
Surrey	60	87	32
West Kent	41	53	17
West Sussex	31	46	23
South Central SHA			
Berkshire East	29	45	18
Berkshire West	38	56	18
Buckinghamshire	27	41	17
Hampshire	64	90	30
Isle of Wight NHS	8	9	2
Milton Keynes	17	33	19
Oxfordshire	36	49	19

Number of stillbirths, perinatal and neonatal deaths by PCT in England, 2006

PCT	*Number of still births*	*Number of perinatal deaths*[1]	*Number of neonatal deaths*[2]
Portsmouth City Teaching	11	15	5
Southampton City	19	28	10
South West SHA			
Bath and North East Somerset	—	7	7
Bournemouth and Poole	15	21	10
Bristol	29	42	17
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	25	36	17
Devon	37	54	21
Dorset	11	20	13
Gloucestershire	32	46	20
North Somerset	10	14	5
Plymouth Teaching	14	18	8
Somerset	26	40	16
South Gloucestershire	13	18	7
Swindon	9	13	1
Torbay	—	9	3
Wiltshire	20	26	10

"—" Stillbirths based on fewer than five cases have been suppressed. It has also been necessary to apply a secondary suppression to avoid the possibility of disclosure by differencing.

[1] Stillbirths plus deaths occurring in the first week of life.

[2] Deaths under 28 days.

Plastic Bags

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many branded plastic bags his Department has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost; [184644]

Eric Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many branded plastic bags his Department and its agencies purchased in the last 24 months; and at what cost. [194765]

Mr. Bradshaw: Any branded plastic bags are procured by individual teams within the Department and we do not hold central records on which items were procured and at what cost. To provide this information would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) purchased 1,000 white plastic bags printed with the MHRA logo on 28 January 2008 at a cost of £290.00 VAT inclusive.

Preventive Medicine

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of deaths from preventable illnesses. [205766]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 674W. An example of what we are doing in relation to alcohol harm is the units campaign launched today.

Strokes: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to improve aftercare services for those who have had strokes. [205771]

Ann Keen: The new 'National Stroke Strategy', published in December 2007, sets out 20 quality markers for the provision of high quality treatment and care for adult stroke survivors. Of those quality markers, seven link directly to the kind of support and services which those who have had a stroke and their carers need in the community, including high quality rehabilitation, information, advice, practical and peer support throughout the care pathway, in line with individual need.

In addition to the funding that has gone to primary care trusts, £105 million of central funding over three years will support implementation, including £45 million to local authorities to help them—working with their national health service partners—develop or accelerate their existing provision of long-term support to those who live with the effects of a stroke.

Surgery

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent action the Government have taken to improve aftercare services for post-operative patients. [206057]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the 18-week programme, the Department, working together with the national health service, has developed 40 high-level, symptom based commissioning pathways which describe good practice from presentation of patients' symptoms to their discharge into review, rehabilitation and self-care. The Department has also published a good practice guide on maximum impact: shorter pathways, which includes good practice on all stages of pathway including post operative care. These are available from

www.18weeks.nhs.uk

In addition, the 'no delays achiever' and suite of supporting products, provides NHS organisations with practical advice on gives how to improve services at all stages of the pathway. This is available from www.institute.nhs.uk

Work has started with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to improve the rehabilitation of patients following periods of critical care. This will focus on the physiological and psychological welfare of patients and is aimed at improving outcomes, their quality of life, and reducing readmissions to hospital.

Toxocariasis

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases of toxocariasis in humans there were in the last three years. [204904]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of toxocariasis cases reported in the last three years in England and Wales is as follows:

	Number of cases
2007	1
2006	1
2005	5

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget of access to work will be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [200573]

Mr. Timms: Forecast expenditure plans are presented in the following table.

Access to work programme budget

	£ million
2008-09	69
2009-10	71
2010-11	73

Figures provided, particularly for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are indicative allocations based on current assumptions and are subject to change.

Children: Maintenance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is planning to take account of the costs of both parents in looking after their children in the child maintenance system. [206200]

Mr. Plaskitt: Maintenance calculations under the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (C-MEC) will reflect the principles introduced with the simpler formula in 2003, that is, a structure of percentage rates based on the non-resident parent's income and number of qualifying children. The percentage rates strike the right balance between the needs of the child and the other expenses that non-resident parents have to meet.

A reduction in the amount of child maintenance otherwise payable will continue to apply where the non-resident parent shares the care of a qualifying child for 52 or more nights a year.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will take of the savings and capital of non-resident parents *(a)* before and *(b)* after an application for maintenance is made by the resident parent. [206202]

Mr. Plaskitt: Savings and capital can be taken into account only once maintenance has been applied for. A parent with care can apply for a variation to the standard maintenance calculation where the non-resident parent has significant assets, investments and other forms of capital, which amount to more than £65,000.

However, a variation will be allowed only where it is "just and equitable" to do so. Broadly this means that the result of the variation must be fair taking account of all the circumstances of the case, and, in particular, the welfare of any child likely to be affected. This includes the child for whom maintenance is paid as well as any other children living with either parent.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 179W, on departmental ICT, how many of the missing or stolen *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [202436]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customer-facing staff were employed by his Department in each year between 2004 and 2007; and how many such staff will be employed in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [200463]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table shows the number of staff employed in the Department's front line delivery businesses at 31 March for each year from 2004 to 2008. It is not possible to differentiate between those who deal directly with the public and those who perform other supporting functions. The figures are provided as full time equivalents.

Business Unit	*March 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*March 2008*
Jobcentre Plus	82,828	74,475	71,222	67,946	66,378
Pensions	19,996	16,419	13,846	12,707	10,727
Child Support Agency	10,929	9,985	11,034	11,224	9,483
Disability and Carers Service	7,265	6,614	6,398	5,988	5.529
Total Customer Facing Staff in DWP	121,018	107,493	102,500	97,865	92,118

For 2008-09, details of the numbers of staff employed in the Department's front line delivery businesses is not available at present.

The Department's three year plan provides an indicative range of headcount reductions for the current Spending Review period and detailed business and regional plans for the period ending 31 March 2009 are currently being developed.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/3yrplan/

Employment Services: Learning Disability

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to increase awareness of the services of disability employment advisers among people with a learning disability. [206505]

Mrs. McGuire: We recently carried out a major review of WORKSTEP, Access to Work, Work Preparation, the Job Introduction Scheme and the Disability Employment Advisor role. We listened to the views of many disabled people, employers, external delivery partners and Jobcentre Plus staff, as well as taking into account the recommendations from the National Audit Office and the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report 'Improving Life Chances of Disabled People'. The public consultation, which closed on 10 March, set out proposals to improve these services to help more disabled people. We will publish a response to the consultation during the summer.

In the meantime, we will continue to take steps to raise awareness of the services that can be provided by Disability Employment Advisers. As well as the normal methods of publicity, for example leaflets and the Jobcentre Plus and Directgov websites, Disability Employment Advisers work hard to engage with customer representative organisations and other partners in the community. This is particularly important in increasing access to services for people with learning difficulties. In Edinburgh, for example, the Disability Employment Advisers work closely with organisations that support customers with learning disabilities.

Jobcentre Plus is often invited to contribute to literature produced by various disability organisations including for example RADAR'S Doing Work Differently, which includes information on Disability Employment Advisers and the specialised support available to disabled people. Jobcentre Plus also contributes articles to publications such as My Future Choices, the magazine of the Transition Information Network, outlining support available and how to get it. Where appropriate, Jobcentre Plus will continue these activities.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with a learning disability Jobcentre Plus assisted in gaining employment in each of the last five years. [206506]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to improve the training available to people with a learning disability who are applying for jobs with the support of Jobcentre Plus. [206507]

Mrs. McGuire: A lack of skills and the need for training is only one of a number of barriers faced by people with a learning disability who want to take up paid work.

We recognise the importance of working more closely and strategically with our key suppliers in order to help us improve delivery of services to customers, including where programmes provide training to support people with learning disabilities into jobs. Areas for improvement in training will also be driven through our management of contracts as well as Ofsted inspection and audit.

Jobcentre Plus offers a range of support to help people move into work. Workstep is designed to support disabled people who have more complex barriers to work, including those with a learning disability. Providers will provide training which is appropriate to enable the disabled employee to do their job. Around one third of Workstep participants have a learning disability. Others are helped by the Access to Work programme through which they can receive a grant to fund a support worker.

We are working jointly with other Departments to improve work opportunities for people with a learning disability. The Getting A Life project is specifically aimed at getting the employment, education and local authority day services functions for people with a learning disability to work together in an integrated manner. The main focus is on people going through transition to adulthood.

The project is being steered and funded by the Departments for Work and Pensions; Health; Innovation, Universities and Skills; and Children, Schools and Families; with the support of the Social Exclusion Task Force, Valuing People, and the Office for Disability Issues. Demonstration projects are being run in seven sites over a three year period from April 2008.

In addition, the Government's Public Service Agreement for socially excluded adults is aimed in part, at increasing the number of adults with learning disabilities in employment. To help us achieve this, we are working with local government through the new Local Area Agreements and we are also working with a number of departments to consider what more central Government can do to help this group of people into work.

Health and Safety Executive: Weber Shandwick Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payments the Health and Safety Executive made to *(a)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and *(b)* Mandate Communications and AS Biss in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202270]

Mrs. McGuire: In 2008, the Health and Safety Executive paid a total of £25,850 to Weber Shandwick Worldwide for public affairs and stakeholder support in Scotland.

The Health and Safety Executive has contracted AS Biss (now Mandate Communications) to provide public affairs and stakeholder support and advice since

2004. The total payments for each calendar year are given in the following table.

	Total payments
2004	87,878.31
2005	182,082.50
2006	125,644.61
2007	116,077.29
2008	19,086.27

Income

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in the UK with an income of *(a)* £100,000 or more and *(b)* £12,000 or less gross per annum in (i) 2002 and (ii) 2007. [203227]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The available information is shown in the following tables. Individual gross income has been used.

Table 1: Number of UK taxpayers (million) with gross annual incomes of £100,000 or more

2002-03	0.3
2007-08	0.6

Source:
Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) 2002-03 and 2005-06, HMRC

Table 2: Number of people (million) in the UK with gross annual incomes of £12,000 or less in 2002-03 and 2005-06

2002-03	23.4
2005-06	21.4

Notes:
1. Figures in the tables compare reported gross annual incomes, except for the estimate for 2007-08 in Table 1 which is based on projected incomes from the 2005-06 SPI.
2. The figures in Table 2 for 2005-06 are the latest available data.
3. SPI data are published by HMRC and FRS data are published by DWP. It has been assessed that the SPI is the most reliable data source for annual incomes of over £100,000, while the FRS is the best source for incomes below £12,000.
4. The information shown is for the UK. The SPI figure in Table 1 is given for all UK taxpayers regardless of place of residence, not just those in the UK.
5. Figures are given in millions rounded to the nearest 100,000 persons.
6. The FRS estimates are sample counts, which have been adjusted for non-response using multipurpose grossing factors that, in the case of the FRS, control for tenure, Council Tax band and a number of other variables. Estimates are subject to both sampling error and to variability in non-response. The income measure used is annual gross individual income.
7. The SPI is a sample survey of information held by HMRC tax offices on persons who could be liable to UK tax. It is carried out annually and covers the income assessable for tax in each tax year. As with all sample surveys, estimates from the SPI have a sampling error attached to them.

Source:
Family Resources Survey (FRS)2002-03 and 2005-06, DWP.

Jobcentre Plus: North West

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in the North West used the out of hours evening service operated by Jobcentre Plus in the last three years; [204197]

(2) what representations he has received on the decision by Jobcentre Plus North West to discontinue its out of hours evening service; and if he will make a statement. [204198]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 19 May 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many people in the North West used the out of hours evening service in the last three years and what representations he has received on the decision by North West to discontinue its out of hours evening service. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Between April 2006 and March 2008 the North West region received 5743 week day evening calls and 2522 resulted in a home visit, the majority of visits resulting in a payment. We do not have complete figures for April 2005 to March 2006.

As a result of the enhanced service now offered by The Pension Service in terms of its opening hours and the vastly improved access to Crisis Loans, a national internal review of the out of hours service was undertaken. We have decided that the service should in future operate to provide emergency cash payments only on days when no normal service is available (weekends and public holidays in the main).

Under the current arrangements, approximately 15% of the weekly referrals are received between Monday and Thursday resulting in only around 40 visits nationally, compared to 10,000 crisis loan applications we receive per day. Delivering an out of hours service on weekday evenings to such small numbers of customers is not cost effective.

Local customer stakeholders were informed in each of the regions in advance of the new arrangements and two representations have been made from organisations in the North West. Local managers have made arrangements with these organisations to discuss the new processes.

Location

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many posts his Department were relocated from London and the South East in each year between 2004 and 2007; how many it plans to relocate in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and what financial savings as a result of such relocations were made by his Department in each year since 2004, broken down by budgetary heading. [200464]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table shows the number of posts relocated from London and the South East.

Period	*Number of posts relocated away from London and the South East*
2003[1]	1,954
2004	364
2005	858
2006	757
2007	76
Forecast for 2008	57
Forecast for 2009	0

[1] HM Treasury agreed a baseline date of 1 June 2003 for the Department's Lyons Public Sector Relocation programme. This was to reflect early progress of relocating 1,954 posts away from London and the South East between the Department submitting its relocation proposals to the Lyons Review and December 2003.

The target date set by the Lyons Review for completing the relocations was March 2010 but the Department agreed to meet the target by March 2008 as part of the 2004 Spending Review. The target was in fact met by December 2007.

The Lyons Review did not require Departments to report costs or savings of relocating posts and consequently that information has not been centrally maintained.

Lost Working Days

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working days were lost due to work-related ill health and injury per worker in each year since 2004; and what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's Public Service Agreement target 5. [200444]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table sets out the published statistics for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. The provisional figures for 2007-08 will be published in autumn 2008.

Estimated average days lost per worker due to work-related illness and workplace injury

	Days lost per worker		
		95 per cent. C.I.	
	Central	Lower	Upper
2004-05	1.53	1.41	1.66
2005-06	1.31	1.2	1.43
2006-07	1.55	1.42	1.68

Note:

95 per cent. C.I.: 95 per cent. confidence interval, the range within which we are 95 per cent. confident that the true value lies in the absence of bias.

The PSA target 5 is to

> "By 2008, improve health and safety outcomes in Great Britain through progressive improvement in the control of risk in the workplace".

The PSA target is measured against six sub-targets, including one for working days lost—a 9 per cent. reduction in the 2004-05 baseline. The Health and Safety Executive publishes a statistics progress report annually. The latest report for the period 2006-07 indicates that for working days lost, HSE is not on track to meet the PSA target.

Occupational Health

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people made unwell by their work conditions in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [204902]

Mr. Timms: From the latest available data for 2006-07, an estimated 646,000 people in Great Britain developed ill health they believed was caused or made worse by their work. This estimate is based on responses to questions in the labour force survey. The results have an associated 95 per cent. confidence interval and could thus be between from 627,000 to 697,000. The figures for 2007-08 will be published in the autumn.

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of members of defined-benefit occupational pension schemes in each year since 1997. [203264]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are committed to supporting existing high quality occupational pension provision. That is why we commissioned a rolling deregulatory review to look at how the private pensions regulatory framework can be made simpler and less burdensome. The decline in membership of defined benefit schemes is a long-term trend and is due to a number of complex factors.

Information on membership of defined benefit occupational pension schemes is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented in the following table:

Estimates of the numbers of active members of defined benefit occupational pension schemes, by year

	Active members of defined benefit occupational pension schemes (million)
1991	9.7
1995	9.2
2000	9.0
2004	8.6
2006	8.5

Notes:

1. Pension scheme membership figures were taken from the Occupational Pension Scheme Survey. Data for years 1991, 1995, 2000 and 2004 were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). Data for 2006 were produced by the Office for National Statistics. 2006 is the latest year published. The coverage of the survey is the UK.
2. Figures presented are totals for private and public sector defined benefit occupational pension scheme membership.
3. Active members are current employees who would normally contribute (or have contributions made on their behalf) to the pension scheme.
4. To be eligible for membership of an occupational pension scheme, including defined benefit schemes, a person must be an employee working for an employer offering such a scheme.

Pathways to Work: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision the Pathways to Work programme will make for cognitive behavioural therapy in North East London in 2008-09. [204660]

Mr. Timms: Pathways to Work in North and North East London is delivered by Reed in Partnership on behalf of the Department. Reed delivers cognitive behavioural therapy as part of the Condition Management Programme, which is a standard element of the Pathways to Work service, offered to people who need help in better their health condition or disability in order to return to work or retain their job. Reed and their subcontractors adapt the programme to meet customers' individual needs, as part of which cognitive behavioural therapy can include a personalised programme of interventions; one-to-one coaching with guided self-help offered where needed; weekly facilitated experiential group support; assertiveness and self-esteem modules and computer-based training.

More severe mental health issues will be referred to a team of cognitive behavioural therapy psychotherapists.

Pension Credit: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in West Lancashire constituency receive pension credit; [204216]

(2) how many pensioners in West Lancashire constituency received assistance under the minimum income guarantee in the most-recent period for which figures are available. [204217]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In West Lancashire constituency 4,890 households were in receipt of pension credit. Of this 1,280 households were in receipt of the guarantee credit only, 2,520 households were in receipt of both the guarantee credit and savings credit, and 1,090 on the savings credit only.

Notes:

1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 31 August 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. The minimum income guarantee was replaced by the pension credit guarantee credit in 2003.

3. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10.

4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Social Security Benefits: Earnings Rules

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give consideration to increasing the permitted earnings disregard; and if he will make a statement. [203684]

Mrs. McGuire: Since 2002 the higher permitted work limit in incapacity benefit of £88.50 has been increased each October in line with the national minimum wage. The £20 lower permitted work limit has remained unchanged since it was introduced in 2002.

From October 2008, when employment and support allowance is introduced the higher permitted earnings level will be extended to income-related beneficiaries as well as those entitled to contributory benefit. The rate will be the same as for incapacity benefit.

Winter Fuel Payments: Eltham

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Eltham received the winter fuel payment in 2007-08; and how many he estimates will receive the extra £50 in 2008-09. [205336]

Mr. Plaskitt: Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available. In winter 2006-07 we made winter fuel payments to 11,080 households in the Eltham constituency of which 2,920 went to households with someone aged 80 or over. We expect the numbers for winter 2007-08 to be similar. We also expect that similar numbers will receive the additional payment of £50 to households with someone aged 60 to 79 and 100 to households with someone aged 80 or over in winter 2008-09.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Social Inclusion: Teacher Training

16. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that the special educational needs content of teacher training courses prepares teachers to deal with social inclusion matters. [205981]

Kevin Brennan: Initial teacher training is designed to enable trainees to meet the professional standards for qualified teacher status (QTS). Those acquiring QTS must be able to use a range of teaching strategies and resources, take account of diversity and promote equality and inclusion. The Training and Development Agency for Schools is developing a range of units for training providers to help trainees meet the standards for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Children's Centres

18. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards meeting the target of providing 3,500 children's centres by 2010. [205983]

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards meeting the target of providing 3,500 children's centres by 2010. [205976]

Beverley Hughes: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon Member for South Swindon (Anne Snelgrove).

Free Nursery Places: Copeland

19. **Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Copeland constituency receive free nursery places. [205984]

Beverley Hughes: All three and four-year-olds are entitled to receive 12.5 hours of free provision for 38 weeks of the year, rising to 15 hours by 2010. 96 per cent. of all three-year-olds nationally, and nearly all four-year-olds access some free provision.

The latest data we have, for 2007, show that in Copeland 660 three-year-olds and 690 four-year-olds receive free part-time nursery places, across the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.

Bullying

20. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to tackle the bullying of school children with special needs. [205985]

Kevin Brennan: This week we are launching tailored guidance which provides schools with comprehensive advice on how to prevent and tackle the bullying of children with SEN and disabilities. Heads and governors have statutory duties to prevent the bullying of these children which are outlined in the guidance.

The anti-bullying alliance and national strategies will provide support and challenge for local authorities and schools to ensure the guidance is effectively implemented on the ground.

Apprenticeships

21. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps are taken in schools to encourage pupils to take up apprenticeships upon leaving. [205986]

Jim Knight: "World-class Apprenticeships" sets out how we will strengthen and expand apprenticeships so that by 2013 every suitably qualified young person who wants an apprenticeship will be able to access one. The Education and Skills Bill before the House requires schools to provide impartial careers education. Information about apprenticeships is included in 14-19 area prospectuses. We are also building a new apprenticeship national matching service that will provide on-line access to apprenticeship vacancies.

Testing

22. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of school tests for measuring the performance of pupils and schools. [205987]

Jim Knight: The rigorous test development process undertaken by the National Assessment Agency, and regulation, now by Ofqual, ensure that national curriculum tests are fit for purpose. Those tests provide reliable, objective information about the attainment of every pupil in the core subjects of the national curriculum and about the performance of every school in equipping pupils with the skills they need for life. Test results help us to improve performance throughout the education system.

GCSEs

23. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to enable 30 per cent. of pupils in all schools to achieve at least five good GCSEs including English and mathematics. [205988]

Ed Balls: We will invest £200 million over the next three years to ensure that by 2011 at least 30 per cent. of pupils in every secondary school will achieve at least five good GCSEs including English and mathematics or the school will be subject to formal intervention. We announced this investment in the Budget, and in June we will publish our strategy to achieve this ambition.

Building Schools for the Future

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [205973]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future continues to make good progress, with 13 schools now open, and a further 35 expected to open by April 2009. 17 local authorities have reached financial close, covering over 200 schools and £3.9 billion capital investment. Beyond 2010-11, we expect that around 200 new or remodelled schools will open each year. 72 local authorities are currently in waves 1-6 of the programme, with almost 1,000 secondary schools currently developing plans for modernisation.

Term-time Pupil Absence

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on pupils being taken out of school during term-time for holidays. [205979]

Kevin Brennan: Our policy is to discourage all avoidable absence, including term-time holidays, because of the increased risk of underachievement or harm to children. We trust head teachers to judge whether any given absence is justified, such as a family crisis or when a parent's employer cannot or will not release them during normal school holidays. Head teachers can grant up to 10 days' holiday absence from school for special reasons, and longer periods in exceptional circumstances.

Absenteeism: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in secondary education in each local authority in Yorkshire and the Humber was classed as persistent absentees in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [206221]

Kevin Brennan: The first year for which information is available on Persistent Absentees is 2005-06.

The available information is given in the table, and was published as part of the Statistical First Release: 'Pupil Absence in Schools in England, including Pupil Characteristics, 2006/07' at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000775/index.shtml

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: Rates of persistent absentees—2005/06 and 2006/07 by local authority area within Yorkshire and the Humber

		Percentage of persistent absentees[3]		
		2005/06	*2006/07*	*Percentage point change*
	Yorkshire and the Humber	8.4	7.6	-0.8
370	Barnsley	6.7	6.8	0.1
380	Bradford	9.3	8.3	-1.0
381	Calderdale	7.7	6.9	-0.8
371	Doncaster	8.1	83	0.2
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	6.6	6.3	-0.3
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of [4]	19.1	11.9	-7.2
382	Kirklees	6.7	6.8	0.1
383	Leeds	10.1	9.8	-0.3

Maintained secondary schools[1], [2]: Rates of persistent absentees—2005/06 and 2006/07 by local authority area within Yorkshire and the Humber

		Percentage of persistent absentees[3]		
		2005/06	2006/07	Percentage point change
812	North East Lincolnshire	8.3	7.6	-0.7
813	North Lincolnshire	6.1	6.4	0.3
815	North Yorkshire	5.5	4.8	-0.7
372	Rotherham	8.9	8.0	-0.9
373	Sheffield	9.3	7.7	-1.6
384	Wakefield	6.7	7.0	0.3
816	York	6.2	6.5	0.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Number of Persistent Absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.

[4] For 2005/06 figures are as reported by schools. There are known quality issues with absence data provided by one school within this authority. A school level resubmission of absence data has been provided by the school but this has not updated the pupil level data upon which this analysis is based.

Source:
School Census

Assessments: Lost Property

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many SAT examination papers were recorded as missing in 2007; [203220]

(2) how many GCSE examination papers were recorded as missing in 2007. [203221]

Jim Knight: A total of 2,282 key stage 2 and 3 test scripts were recorded as missing out of a total of some 9.6 million. Missing scripts are those scripts lost during the marking process (including the transfer of scripts between schools and markers).

A total of 4,985 GCSE (including GNVQ) and A level scripts were recorded as missing as at results day in summer 2007. These figures are for English- based awarding bodies only. The total number of GCSE (including GNVQ) and A level scripts marked for the summer 2007 exam series was some 16 million. It is not possible to get a separate breakdown for GCSEs.

The awarding bodies which offer GCSE and A level examinations are required by the regulator to have arrangements in place to ensure that candidates whose examination scripts are lost are not disadvantaged.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of children aged *(a)* three and *(b)* four years were in daycare settings for more than 12.5 hours a week in (i) Basingstoke constituency, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England in each year for which records are available; [203023]

(2) how many and what proportion of children under the age of three years were attending daycare settings in *(a)* Basingstoke constituency, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in each year for which records are available. [203025]

Beverley Hughes: The 2004 Parents' Childcare Survey estimated that 35 per cent. of 0-2 year olds and 86 per cent. of 3-4 year olds had used some formal child care in the week before the survey. The following table shows what proportion of children in these age groups had used different types of formal provision.

Table 1: Use of formal child care in the last week by age of child, 2004

	0-2 per cent.	3-4 per cent.
Early years provision and formal child care	35	86
Nursery school	2	10
Nursery class	1	22
Reception class	0	28
Day nursery	18	12
Playgroup or pre-school	9	18
Childminder	5	5
Nanny or au pair	1	2
Babysitter	3	2
Out-of-school club on-site	<0.5	2
Out-of-school club off-site	<0.5	1

Notes:
The percentages for the different types of formal provision do not sum to the total 'Early years provision and formal child care' figure as a child may attend more than one type of provision.
Comparable data are not available for previous years due to changes in the definitions of the different types of formal provision.
Data are not available at a local authority level.
Data on 3 and 4 years olds attending daycare settings for more than 12.5 hours a week are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Dyslexia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency have been assessed to be dyslexic. [205713]

Kevin Brennan: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

Information is collected from schools on pupils who are supported at "School Action Plus" and those pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) about their main or primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need.

Information on the number of pupils with dyslexia alone is not collected centrally. Figures relating to pupils with specific learning difficulties have been provided. Pupils with specific learning difficulties have a particular difficulty in learning to read, write, spell or manipulate numbers and this includes pupils with dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Tables showing the number of pupils by type of SEN in each local authority area have been placed in the Library. This information has not been analysed below local authority level. It is important that anyone using the data should understand the limitations of the data's reliability and validity. There are a range of factors which may affect the data recorded, including: local interpretation of definitions; classification of children with multiple needs; statistics being based on school and local authority identification of need rather than a diagnosis by medical or psychological staff; and the availability of special school provision in authorities.

Children: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent in developing its Children's Plan. [201670]

Beverley Hughes: The total cost of developing the Children's Plan was £1,309,956.

In developing the plan, the Department ran a consultation which had two strands; a national consultation survey and five deliberative events. We used a range of media to encourage people to express their views about children's services. Over 3,000 responses were received.

In addition, three expert groups (ages 0-7, 8-13, and 14-19) were remitted to look at services and policies affecting children, young people and families. Their reports informed the development of The Children's Plan.

The Children's Plan was published on 11 December 2007.

Cycling

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received an interest-free, advance of salary loan to purchase a bicycle in each year for which records are available. [205029]

Kevin Brennan: The following table sets out numbers and proportions of interest-free salary advances for bicycle purchase over the past five years:

Department/Year	*Number of advances*	*Number of staff (headcount)*	*Percentage of staff receiving advance*
DCSF			
July 2007 to date	5	2,731	0.18
DfES			
July 2006 to June 2007	1	3,460	0.03
July 2005 to June 2006	1	3,768	0.03
July 2004 to June 2005	4	4,132	0.10
July 2003 to June 2004	8	4,684	0.17

It should be noted that the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. The earlier figures refer to the predecessor Department for Education and Skills (DfES) although the two Departments are not directly comparable due to staff changes, in particular over 500 staff moved from DfES to the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the past 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201746]

Kevin Brennan: Since its creation in July 2007, the Department has taken the following steps to reduce energy consumption in its headquarters buildings:

Launched an internal communications campaign to raise awareness of sustainability issues, highlight successes and initiate activities leading to a more careful use of resources;

Incorporated advice from the Carbon Trust into a sustainable operations management system with action plans in place for each of our sites;

Commissioned external specialist help to investigate options for greater carbon and fiscal savings and these are currently being integrated into the Department's action plans;

Used data for benchmarking and trend analysis from an extended utility bureau contract to provide useful planning and reporting information on our energy use.

The most recent two years of published expenditure data on energy relates to my Department's predecessor the Department for Education and Skills and is reported as follows:

	£
(a) 2005-06	1,636,735
(b) 2006-07	2,080,895

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203840]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families will publish in due course, an annual list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by the Ministers in the Department during the course of the previous financial year.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [204775]

Kevin Brennan: 101 statutory instruments, general and local, have been made by Ministers of the Department for Children, Schools and Families since its establishment on 28 June 2007. Its predecessor Departments were the Department for Education and Employment up to 10 June 2001 and the Department for Education and Skills from 11 June 2001 to 27 June 2007. 700 statutory instruments, general and local, were made by Ministers of the Department for Education and Employment from 1 January 1997 to 10 June 2001. 924 statutory instruments, general and local, were made by Ministers of the Department for Education and Skills from 11 June 2001 to 27 June 2007.

Numbers of statutory instruments revoked could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205188]

Kevin Brennan: Details of expenditure on translation and interpretation services incurred by the Department in 2007-08 are as follows:

2007-08: £5,497.26

The figure relates to actual translation and interpretation work as recorded on the Department's integrated financial information system. The figure excludes publishing costs, on-line or off-line, associated with the translated material. The costs incurred for translation and interpretation are recorded under a general heading of Translation Fees. To extract the specific financial data with regard to language would involve disproportionate cost.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a Machinery of Government change and the expenditure recorded above includes that of its predecessor department, the Department for Education and Skills.

Education: Olympic Games 2012

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contribution his Department is making towards ensuring the 2012 Olympic Games delivers a lasting educational legacy; and if he will make a statement. [206465]

Jim Knight: The Department is working with an extensive range of external partners including the Government Olympic Executive, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to ensure that the education benefits of the games are maximised.

We are developing detailed plans for a 2012 Education Programme of opportunities linked to the games which will support key policies and priorities, and in particular the five Every Child Matters outcomes and our commitments set out in the Children's Plan. This programme will be launched in September 2008 and will run through to 2012, with projects coming on stream at different times as part of a strategy to maintain interest in the games over the four years up to 2012.

The involvement of educational institutions in the programme will be voluntary and the design of the programme is on the basis that opportunities for young people and institutions will be offered in a coherent way that supports and can be delivered alongside their existing work.

We anticipate that much of the activity will not be centrally driven but rather be planned and implemented locally within individual schools and communities and we are working with the nine English regions, through the 2012 Nations and Regions Group, to capture and share the large number of grass roots activities which we expect to take place in individual schools.

Olympic Games: China

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people from the Youth Sport Trust will attend the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in whole or in part; and at what cost. [205746]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* The Department funds the Youth Sport Trust to help manage and deliver the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, as well as programmes to raise standards through sport. This funding would not support any international visits. Subject to that condition, attendance at the Beijing Olympic Games is a matter for the Youth Sport Trust to consider.

Outdoor Education: Greater London

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage out-of-classroom learning in London; and if he will make a statement. [206466]

Jim Knight: Under the 'New Views' programme run by Field Studies Council (FSC), the Department has provided subsidised residential learning outside the classroom experiences for over 120,000 key stage 3 pupils from London secondary schools.

Last year the Department funded the FSC to support the provision of residential courses for 6,000 key stage 3 pupils from 100 London schools, and to deliver training for teachers to develop effective integration of the residential experience into schools. The FSC have recently developed and trialled a suite of Curriculum Adventure courses targeted at disadvantaged students in underperforming London, Black Country and Manchester schools. The courses focused content on the Mathematics, English and science curricula using the outdoor environment and adventure activities as a stimulus and context for learning.

More widely to support schools to deliver high-quality learning outside the classroom the Department is producing a comprehensive set of 'How to' guidance to help with planning; funding, running and publicising learning outside the classroom. A series of continuing professional development modules will underpin this guidance.

Politics: Education

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will issue guidance to *(a)* local education authorities, *(b)* governing bodies and *(c)* head teachers on the balanced presentation of political issues in the classroom in relation to the distribution in schools of the European Commission's booklets (i) Passport to the European Union and (ii) The EU: What's in it for me; and if he will make a statement. [206406]

Jim Knight: This Department has not issued any guidance in relation to these two publications. Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 set out the duty of teachers to secure balanced treatment of political issues. The Department does not endorse specific resources and it is for teachers to use their professional judgment in determining which materials to use in the classroom.

Pre-School Education

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to extend the free nursery entitlement for three and four-year-olds. [205978]

Beverley Hughes: By 2010 all three and four-year-olds will be eligible to receive 15 more flexible hours of early years provision, compared to the existing 12½ hours. 20 Pathfinder local authorities are already delivering the extended entitlement and we have pledged to extend that progressively between now and 2010.

The extension to the free entitlement will offer considerable benefits both to the three and four-year-olds who will receive additional high quality early education and to the families who will benefit from the increased flexibility in balancing to both their work and family life.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 690W, on pre-school education: finance, if he will monitor changes in costs experienced by private, voluntary and independent nurseries. [205499]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* As we said in our response on 1 May, the cost analysis of private, voluntary and independent nurseries is being undertaken by local authorities and will be used to inform local funding decisions. The analyses are not collected centrally. My officials will continue to work with key stakeholders, including provider representatives, to monitor all aspects of the delivery of the free entitlement to early years care for three and four-year-olds.

Pupil Exclusions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were permanently excluded from schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* the North East, *(d)* Tees Valley district and *(e)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [205712]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information relating to permanent exclusions is shown in the following tables.

Information on fixed period exclusions is available from 2003-04 but can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on exclusions for the academic year 2006-07 is expected to be available in June 2008.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1,2]: number and percentage of permanently excluded pupils, 1997-98 to 2005-06

	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01[3]		2001-02[3]	
	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]
England[5]	12,300	0.16	10,440	0.14	8,320	0.11	9,140	0.12	9,540	0.12
London Government office region[5]	2,030	0.20	1,780	0.17	1,290	0.12	1,450	0.14	1,460	0.14
North East Government office region[5]	680	0.16	560	0.13	480	0.11	470	0.11	490	0.12
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency	22	0.14	10	0.06	13	0.08	6	0.04	10	0.07

	2002-03[3]		2003-04[3]		2004-05[3]		2005-06[3]	
	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]
England[5]	9,290	0.12	9,880	0.13	9,400	0.12	9,170	0.12
London Government office region[5]	1,470	0.14	1,590	0.15	1,510	0.14	1,540	0.15
North East Government office region[5]	500	0.12	460	0.11	460	0.12	420	0.11

	2002-03[3]		2003-04[3]		2004-05[3]		2005-06[3]	
	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]	No.	%[4]
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency	6	0.04	8	0.06	5	0.04	6	0.05

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.

[3] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils, excluding dually registered pupils.

[4] Figures are as confirmed by local authorities in the data checking exercise. Figures at parliamentary constituency level are based on data as reported by schools.

[5] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1,2]: number and percentage of permanently excluded pupils, Tees Valley, 1997-98 to 2005-06

		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01[3]		2001-02[3]	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	Tees Valley	164	0.14	111	0.09	109	0.09	96	0.08	108	0.09
841	Darlington	29	0.19	26	0.17	27	0.17	23	0.15	7	0.04
805	Hartlepool	34	0.20	17	0.10	15	0.09	22	0.13	32	0.19
806	Middlesbrough	23	009	17	0.07	3	0.01	7	0.03	13	0.05
807	Redcar and Cleveland	35	0.13	26	0.10	37	0.14	29	0.11	33	0 13
808	Stockton-on-Tees	43	0.13	25	0.07	27	0.08	15	0.05	23	0.07

		2002-03[3]		2003-04[3]		2004-05[3]		2005-06[3]	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	Tees Valley	113	0.10	135	0.12	120	0.11	125	0.12
841	Darlington	9	0.06	22	0.14	34	0.22	44	0.29
805	Hartlepool	40	024	44	0.27	22	0 14	22	0.14
806	Middlesbrough	9	0.04	18	0.09	19	0.09	20	0.10
807	Redcar and Cleveland	32	0.13	33	0.13	24	0.10	20	0.09
808	Stockton-on-Tees	23	0.07	18	0.06	21	0.07	19	0.06

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained arid non-maintained special schools.

[3] Figures are as confirmed by local authorities via the data checking exercise.

[4] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils, excluding dually registered pupils.

Source:
School Census

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases of unauthorised absence by pupils for 10 consecutive school days or more there were in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [206228]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Schools: Carbon Emissions

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to ensure that all new school buildings are zero-carbon by 2016. [205971]

Kevin Brennan: We announced in December 2007 an ambition for all new school buildings to be zero carbon by 2016. A taskforce has been appointed to advise on how to achieve this ambition. The taskforce will develop a roadmap to zero carbon, setting targets and milestones to 2016.

We are taking action now while we work towards zero carbon by setting an immediate requirement for new school buildings to reduce carbon emissions by 60 per cent.

Schools: Health Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of primary schools in each London borough have achieved Healthy Schools status. [205777]

Jim Knight: The total proportion of London primary schools that have achieved National Healthy Schools Status is now 63 per cent. The following table gives a breakdown of schools achieving National Healthy Schools Status for each London borough as provided by each local programme.

National Healthy Schools Programme figures as at 13 May 2008

Local authority	*Total number of schools that have achieved National Healthy Schools Status*	*Total number of primary schools*	*Percentage of schools that have achieved National Healthy schools Status*
Kingston-upon-Thames	26	36	72
Richmond-upon-Thames	30	40	75
Harrow	14	39	36
Barking and Dagenham	29	49	59
Sutton	30	41	73
Kensington and Chelsea	19	26	73
Hounslow	32	61	52
Westminster	19	40	48
Havering	49	64	77
Hammersmith and Fulham	33	35	94
Redbridge	19	54	35
Hillingdon	33	65	51
Islington	31	44	70
Haringey	44	63	70
Camden	33	41	80
Brent	40	61	66
Merton	26	43	60
Waltham Forest	37	54	69
Bexley	59	59	100
Wandsworth	18	56	32
Croydon	47	89	53
Enfield	59	66	89
Hackney	34	53	64
Ealing	47	64	73
Bromley	46	75	61
Lambeth	38	53	72
Newham	39	67	58
Lewisham	41	71	58
Tower Hamlets	44	69	64
Greenwich	46	67	69
Barnet	50	87	57
Southwark	52	73	71
Total for London	911	1,438	63

Schools: Sports

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms he has put in place for the delivery of high quality sporting facilities for school and community use through the Building Schools for the Future programme. [205879]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to improving the quality of PE and sport in all schools, using Building Schools for the Future (BSF) as a vehicle. In their BSF Strategy for Change submission, all local authorities must establish a PE and Sport stakeholder group. This group should have representation from Sport England, County Sports Partnerships, and school sports partnerships to raise the profile of sport within the programme and develop facilities within their area. In addition, Partnerships for Schools, Sport England and the Youth Sports Trust fund "Sports Advisers" to help develop community-use facilities. These Sports Advisers work with the local authority sports stakeholder groups to develop a vision, and support the stakeholder groups to work with schools to achieve it. These advisers also work with Sport England to ensure sports governing bodies can contribute to the developing BSF strategy. The Department also publishes a guide titled "Inspirational Design for PE and Sport Spaces" for all local authorities, to assist in developing their BSF Strategy for Change.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on community use of school sporting facilities and VAT restrictions; and if he will make a statement. [205880]

Kevin Brennan: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has had no discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer about community use of school sporting facilities and VAT restrictions.

Officials in this Department and in the Treasury have had, and will continue to have discussions on this issue, as necessary.

Secure Accommodation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to assess the effectiveness of secure children's homes. [205576]

Kevin Brennan: Secure children's homes are inspected by the Chief Inspector for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills against the children's homes regulations and the national minimum standards.

It is the responsibility of local authorities, in making placement decisions for children whom they look after, to assess the suitability of placement and the extent to which they are capable of meeting the assessed needs of the individual child. Each child's progress should be monitored in the light of his or her care plan, and placements must be reviewed regularly to ensure that they continue to be suitable.

The Department recently commissioned an independent report into the market for welfare beds in secure children's homes, i.e. for children placed under section 25 of the Children Act. This report is due to be published later this year and the Department will consider, taking account of its recommendations, whether further action should be taken with regard to secure children's homes.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205049]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not currently have or previously had any smoking shelters at its London headquarters buildings.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what legislation regulates the education of children with special educational needs; what changes have been made since its enactment; and if he will make a statement. [205076]

Kevin Brennan: The main body of the legislation regulating the education of children with special educational needs (SEN) is contained within Part IV of the Education Act 1996 and associated Regulations. That Act consolidated the Education Act 1993 which legislated in this area and which, in turn, followed the original SEN legislation contained in the Education Act 1981. The SEN Code of Practice gives statutory guidance to schools, local authorities and others in carrying out their duties for children with SEN.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 amended the Education Act 1996 and also the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 by making the provision of education subject to that Act. The changes the 2001 Act made to Part IV of the Education Act 1996 in summary were: it strengthened the right of children with SEN to be educated in mainstream schools where that is what their parents want and the interests of other children can be protected; it required local education authorities to provide the parents of children with SEN advice and information and a means of resolving disputes; it required local education authorities to comply with SEN and disability tribunal orders within prescribed periods; and it required schools to inform parents where they are making special educational provision and allowed schools to request a statutory assessment of a pupil's SEN.

Supply Teachers: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on supply teachers in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [206235]

Jim Knight: The available information on the gross expenditure by local authority maintained schools on supply teachers from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is contained within the following table:

Total gross expenditure by local authority maintained schools on supply teachers

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
England	846,053,000	833,390,000	820,780,000	886,783,000	872,039,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	87,654,000	89,194,000	89,440,000	94,015,000	90,854,000
Barnsley	3,108,000	3,994,000	4,514,000	5,078,000	4,464,000
Bradford	10,909,000	11,409,000	11,313,000	11,236,000	10,818,000
Calderdale	3,865,000	4,055,000	3,861,000	4,022,000	4,071,000
City of Kingston-upon-Hull	5,209,000	4,918,000	4,390,000	4,914,000	4,687,000
Doncaster	5,053,000	5,016,000	5,246,000	5,378,000	5,123,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,610,000	4,636,000	4,672,000	5,007,000	4,603,000
Kirklees	5,456,000	5,586,000	5,683,000	6,473,000	6,901,000
Leeds	12,381,000	12,276,000	12,101,000	12,954,000	12,026,000
North East Lincolnshire	3,105,000	2,923,000	2,862,000	2,688,000	2,992,000
North Lincolnshire	2,580,000	2,709,000	2,549,000	2,865,000	2,471,000
North Yorkshire	9,713,000	9,888,000	9,851,000	10,914,000	11,456,000
Rotherham	5,705,000	6,298,000	5,938,000	5,110,000	5,003,000
Sheffield	9,243,000	9,447,000	9,673,000	10,059,000	8,964,000
Wakefield	3,338,000	3,622,000	4,223,000	4,369,000	4,737,000
York	2,378,000	2,418,000	2,566,000	2,949,000	2,539,000

Teachers: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the average annual cost to the public purse of a teacher in a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [205991]

Jim Knight: The available information on the average expenditure by local authority maintained primary and secondary schools on directly employed teaching staff per teacher for 2006-07 is contained within the following table:

Local authority name	*Primary school based expenditure on directly employed teaching staff (£ per teacher)*	*Secondary school based expenditure on directly employed teaching staff (£ per teacher)*
England	38,790	41,420
Barking and Dagenham	45,300	47,850
Barnet	40,550	44,430
Barnsley	38,950	39,960
Bath and NE Somerset	37,230	42,040
Bedfordshire	36,730	41,680
Bexley	40,540	45,110
Birmingham	38,230	42,120
Blackburn and Darwen	38,640	42,580
Blackpool	37,030	40,740
Bolton	39,200	41,420
Bournemouth	37.390	41,070
Bracknell Forest	36,790	39,910
Bradford	39,690	42,690
Brent	42,110	46,040
Brighton and Hove	43,410	34,920
Bromley	40,630	44,330
Buckinghamshire	37,020	40,770
Bury	39,440	41,740
Calderdale	38,220	40,620
Cambridgeshire	38,040	40,690
Camden	45,370	49,490
Cheshire	38,340	39,990
City of Bristol	37,360	40,650
City of Kingston-upon Hull	37,990	39,670
City of London	41,230	n/a
City of Nottingham	38,080	40,470
City of Peterborough	37,550	43,970
City of Plymouth	39,230	43,360
Cornwall	37,740	39,490
Coventry	38,820	41,990
Croydon	41,360	44,190
Cumbria	38,090	39,890
Darlington	35,060	46,570
Derby	38,710	39,720
Derbyshire	38,630	40,990
Devon	37,590	41,140
Doncaster	37,690	42,300
Dorset	41,220	41,140
Dudley	38,350	40,660
Durham	38,410	40,820
Ealing	42,580	46,140
East Riding of Yorkshire	37,710	40,030
East Sussex	37,500	40,360
Enfield	40,890	43,160
Essex	39,470	41,470
Gateshead	37,710	44,660
Gloucestershire	38,730	40,010
Greenwich	42,750	44,160
Hackney	42,330	50,630

Local authority name	*Primary school based expenditure on directly employed teaching staff (£ per teacher)*	*Secondary school based expenditure on directly employed teaching staff (£ per teacher)*
Halton	40,940	41,280
Hammersmith and Fulham	42,910	48,230
Hampshire	37,750	40,320
Haringey	44,160	45,890
Harrow	40,710	45,580
Hartlepool	38,590	40,710
Havering	41,980	42,880
Herefordshire	37,950	39,620
Hertfordshire	36,970	40,140
Hillingdon	39,350	43,990
Hounslow	38,080	41,740
Isle of Wight	36,690	39,180
Isles of Scilly	43,350	n/a
Islington	42,890	48,020
Kensington and Chelsea	41,660	47,950
Kent	37,070	40,160
Kingston-upon-Thames	40,390	45,470
Kirklees	38,750	40,250
Knowsley	38,380	41,670
Lambeth	43,800	49,490
Lancashire	38,880	41,520
Leeds	38,550	40,140
Leicester City	37,220	40,240
Leicestershire	37,690	40,670
Lewisham	46,180	52,100
Lincolnshire	36,860	41,360
Liverpool	40,030	41,820
Luton	35,420	42,500
Manchester	38,520	40,380
Medway	37,240	41,940
Merton	41,400	47,190
Middlesbrough	39,100	42,150
Milton Keynes	38,100	38,790
Newcastle upon Tyne	38,570	41,270
Newham	41,800	48,120
Norfolk	38,720	40,560
North East Lincolnshire	38,070	40,170
North Lincolnshire	39,030	39,640
North Somerset	37,680	39,230
North Tyneside	38,510	40,390
North Yorkshire	38,600	40,370
Northamptonshire	36,820	41,080
Northumberland	38,710	40,240
Nottinghamshire	38,810	41,250
Oldham	38,180	39,500
Oxfordshire	36,630	39,570
Poole	38,580	40,060
Portsmouth	37,220	39,130
Reading	36,440	43,940
Redbridge	40,610	43,800
Redcar and Cleveland	39,310	40,880
Richmond-upon-Thames	42,790	47,820
Rochdale	38,770	39,970
Rotherham	40,450	41,680
Rutland	38,110	44,170
Salford	37,530	37,740
Sandwell	38,160	41,550
Sefton	39,520	42,450
Sheffield	37,520	40,930
Shropshire	39,170	41,120
Slough	37,270	41,290

Local authority name	*Primary school based expenditure on directly employed teaching staff (£ per teacher)*	*Secondary school based expenditure on directly employed teaching staff (£ per teacher)*
Solihull	37,800	43,530
Somerset	39,220	39,970
South Gloucestershire	36,740	40,260
South Tyneside	41,470	42,350
Southampton	36,360	40,500
Southend	36,990	38,650
Southwark	44,360	47,620
St Helens	39,740	41,270
Staffordshire	38,270	40,720
Stockport	38,730	40,590
Stockton-on-Tees	38,200	41,210
Stoke	37,800	38,620
Suffolk	38,210	41,070
Sunderland	38,480	41,610
Surrey	38,800	42,070
Sutton	40,300	44,800
Swindon	36,570	39,830
Tameside	39,530	41,750
Telford and Wrekin	39,550	41,250
Thurrock	37,920	39,020
Torbay	39,120	40,380
Tower Hamlets	41,820	46,970
Trafford	38,170	39,460
Wakefield	38,310	38,990
Walsall	38,620	40,430
Waltham Forest	40,070	42,010
Wandsworth	41,790	45,990
Warrington	37,070	39,430
Warwickshire	38,240	40,770
West Berkshire	39,620	36,310
West Sussex	37,420	40,890
Westminster	41,970	48,280
Wigan	40,460	40,480
Wiltshire	37,430	39,970
Windsor and Maidenhead	36,160	40,830
Wirral	39,640	42,090
Wokingham	37,350	40,150
Wolverhampton	38,930	40,420
Worcestershire	37,700	40,110
York	37,810	40,680

n/a = not available.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the percentage increase in the cost of teachers' pay was in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; what estimate he has made of the percentage increase in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010; and if he will make a statement. [203492]

Jim Knight: The estimated percentage increases in the costs of teachers' pay are shown in the following table:

Teacher Paybill—England only

	Percentage increase on previous year
2005-06	6.1
2006-07	2.9
2007-08	2.0
2008-09	2.7
2009-10	2.5
2010-11	2.3

Notes:

1 The Paybill figures include Superannuation and National Insurance costs and the pay awards given for each year. Figures were adjusted to reflect actual teacher numbers up to 2007-8. Teacher numbers for 2008-9 onwards have been assumed to be constant at 2007-8 levels.

2. Figures for 2008-9 onwards are based on recommendations in STRB 17th report for headline award and London enhancements.

3. For modelling purposes the Paybill figures employed up to 2006-07 financial year were taken from the previous year Paybill estimations.

4. From 2006-07 onwards, pay settlements are awarded on an academic year basis. Financial year costs are calculated as 7/12 of the current academic year costs plus 5/12 of the preceding academic year costs.

5. Figures show increase in overall Paybill and not changes in Paybill per teacher.

Teachers' pay increases are based on recommendations by the independent School Teachers' Review Body (STRB). The aforementioned figures assume implementation of the recommendations in the most recent STRB report, which for September 2008 are subject to statutory consultation, and for September 2009 and 2010 include indicative pay awards.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real growth in the teacher paybill per teacher was in each year since 1997; what estimate he has made of the (i) nominal and (ii) real growth in the paybill per teacher in each year to 2011; and if he will make a statement. [203494]

Jim Knight: The estimated percentage increases in teacher paybill costs per head are shown in the following table:

Estimated teacher paybill per head—England only

	Paybill per head (percentage increase)	
	Cash	*Real*
1998-99	3.3	0.7
1999-2000	4.1	2.1
2000-01	6.0	4.5
2001-02	5.6	3.1
2002-03	5.0	1.8
2003-04	10.2	7.1
2004-05	3.6	0.8
2005-06	5.0	2.8
2006-07	2.3	-0.4
2007-08	1.9	-1.3
2008-09	2.7	-0.3
2009-10	2.5	-0.2
2010-11	2.3	-0.4

Notes:

1 There is a break in the time-series in year 2005-06 The break relates to a change in the modelling methodology for supply teachers costs.

2 The paybill figures include Superannuation and National Insurance costs and the pay awards given for each year. Figures were adjusted to reflect actual teacher numbers up to 2007-8. Teacher numbers for 2008-9 onwards have been assumed to be constant at 2007-8 levels.

3 Figures for 2008-9 onwards are based on recommendations in 17th STRB report for headline award and London Enhancements.

4 Real terms figures calculated in 2006-7 prices using 28 March 2008 GDP Deflators. From 2006-07 onwards, pay settlements are awarded on an academic year basis. Financial year costs are calculated as 7/12 of the current academic year costs plus 5/12 of the preceding academic year costs.

Teachers: Redundancy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each local authority spent on *(a)* teacher and *(b)* support staff redundancies in each year from 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [205990]

Jim Knight: This information is not collected centrally by the Department.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many officials in his Department are working on the development of the Masters level teaching qualification; and if he will make a statement; [206229]

(2) when courses leading to the Masters level teaching qualification will be provided; and if he will make a statement. [206236]

Jim Knight: A number of officials in the Department are working, with colleagues at the Training and Development Agency for Schools, on the development of Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL), as one part of their responsibilities. They will commence consultation with schools and higher education institutions on the content of the new qualification in the near future. We expect the first teachers to start the MTL in September 2009.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of candidates failed initial teacher training in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [206234]

Jim Knight: Information about failure to complete Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses is only available for trainees in their final year of training. The following tables show, for academic years for which data are available, the number of final year Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees who did not gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in their final year of training, and of these the numbers and percentages who left their course before completion and where the outcome of QTS is unknown for:

1. Mainstream Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees

2. Employment Based ITT (EBITT) trainees

1. Mainstream final year ITT trainees

			Number of mainstream final year trainees who have not gained QTS				*Percentage of mainstream final year trainees who have not gained QTS*	
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Total*
1998/99	27,200	24,070	1,310	460	1,350	3,130	5	11
1999/2000	24,650	21,690	1,290	350	1,330	2,960	5	12
2000/01	25,720	22,640	1,350	480	1,250	3,080	5	12
2001/02	26,350	23,280	1,130	0	1,940	3,070	4	12
2002/03	28,570	25,430	1,050	10	2,090	3,140	4	11

1. Mainstream final year ITT trainees

			Number of mainstream final year trainees who have not gained QTS				*Percentage of mainstream final year trainees who have not gained QTS*	
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Total*
2003/04	30,970	27,340	1,470	0	2,160	3,630	5	12
2004/05	31,360	27,150	1,410	20	2,780	4,210	5	13
2005/06	31,220	27,040	1,310	10	2,900	4,210	4	13

Notes:

1. Includes trainees from Universities and other Higher Education (HE) institutions, School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) and Open Universities (OU), but exclude EBITT.

2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10, therefore may not sum.

3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test was not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skill test has not been taken (include those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met)

Source:

TDA performance profiles

2. Employment Based ITT (EBITT) trainees

			Number of EBITT final year trainees who have not gained QTS				*Percentage of EBITT final year trainees who have not gained QTS*	
	Total number of EBITT trainees in their final year	*Number of EBITT final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Total*
2001/02	2,440	2,210	30	0	190	230	1	9
2002/03	4,030	3,670	340	0	20	360	8	9
2003/04	4,950	4,470	440	0	30	470	9	10
2004/05	7,220	6,600	260	0	350	610	4	8
2005/06	6,970	6,090	420	0	450	870	6	13

Notes:

1. Includes trainees through EBITT only.

2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10, therefore may not sum.

3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test was not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skill test has not been taken (include those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met)

Source:

TDA performance profiles

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 20 May 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based; [200756]

(2) what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91; [200757]

(3) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement; [200758]

(4) what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be from increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200759]

Mr. Woodward: Employees of the Northern Ireland Office are employed by either the Home civil service or Northern Ireland civil service, and as such, they are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (GB) and (NI) respectively. These schemes are the responsibility of Cabinet Office and the Department for Finance and Personnel respectively. Relevant details are included in their scheme accounts.

The Department has responsibility for broadly by analogy pension schemes for public appointments. Details of the most recent and past unfunded liabilities in present value terms will be contained within the Department's resource accounts which will be laid before Parliament by 22 July.

Police Stations: Closures

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 765W, on police stations: closures, when he expects the review to be published on possible police station closures in Northern Ireland. [202205]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

> "Work is currently being carried out identifying stations, which will be subject to review. The outcome will likely be included in the Updated PSNI Estates Strategy planned to be submitted to the Northern Ireland Policing Board in June 2008."

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of *(a)* convicted and *(b)* remand prisoners in Northern Ireland were neither UK nor Irish citizens in 2007. [205936]

Paul Goggins: The average number of convicted prisoners recorded as neither UK nor Irish citizens in custody during 2007 was 16, or 1.75 per cent. of the average convicted prisoner population.

The average number of remand prisoners recorded as neither UK nor Irish citizens during 2007 was 40, or 7.5 per cent. of the average remand prisoner population.

Terrorism

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to have discussions with the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Irish Republic on the possible future political implications in Northern Ireland of the charging in the Special Criminal Court in the Irish Republic on 10 May of a man in connection with possession of explosives and membership of the IRA. [206043]

Paul Goggins: It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment on a criminal case which is ongoing in another jurisdiction.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates: Recycling

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* target and *(b)* outturn for the proportion of aggregates that are recycled or from secondary sources used in Government-funded construction projects was in each of the last three years. [205606]

Jonathan Shaw: No targets have been set in respect of the recycling of aggregates and data are not held on the proportion of aggregates that are recycled or from secondary sources used in Government-funded construction projects.

Agriculture: Science

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether, in his role as Director of the International Assessment of Agricultural knowledge, Science and Technology for Development at the Intergovernmental Plenary, the Chief Scientific Adviser is required to act independently of the UK Government. [205006]

Jonathan Shaw: The DEFRA Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Bob Watson, is also Director of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). Professor Watson was appointed as IAASTD Director in an independent capacity and is not representing the UK Government in this role.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tewkesbury of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1969W, on animal welfare: circuses, what progress has been made in considering the feasibility of introducing secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to regulate the welfare of wild animals in circuses through the replacement of the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925; and whether there is a timeframe within which he expects these changes to be made. [205162]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 May 2008]*: The feasibility study, looking at the possibility of regulating wild animal acts in travelling circuses, has taken longer to complete than we originally anticipated. Details will be released as soon as the study is complete. Any future regulations relating to wild animals in circuses would not replace the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925. DEFRA has a long-term commitment to reviewing this Act, but the timing of this review has yet to be fixed.

Beekeeping

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department provides for research into beekeeping; and if he will make a statement. [204200]

Jonathan Shaw: Detailed allocations for all of DEFRA's programmes have still to be finalised, including those for research. Funding for DEFRA's bee health programme is expected to be unchanged in 2008-09 (£1.3 million) In addition to this, commissioned research into honey bee health is expected to be c. £190,000. In addition, honey bee health benefits from other DEFRA-funded research activities. Research priorities are addressed in the draft Bee Health strategy which has recently been published for public consultation.

Bees: Disease Control

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the risk to bee colonies of *(a)* the varroa mite and *(b)* other bee parasites. [205638]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 May 2008]*: The Varroa mite is ubiquitous and is probably in every honey bee colony in England and Wales. Although it is no longer a statutory requirement to notify the presence of Varroa, it poses a major threat to beekeepers. However, it can be kept under control with appropriate treatments and hive management techniques. The National Bee Unit provides written material on Varroa management (available on their Beebase website) and issues advice to beekeepers both through comprehensive training sessions on effective management of Varroa and when visiting individual beekeepers.

Other damaging parasites affecting honey bees include Nosema and Tracheal mites. Limited survey work has shown that two species of Nosema—N. apis and N. ceranae—are present in the UK. They have been found in widely dispersed locations. Tracheal mite is also widespread.

There is a statutory requirement to notify the presence of Tropilaelaps mites which can affect brood and adult bees. They are found in Asia and have not been reported in Europe.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on whether to use badger culling as part of a package of measures to address the incidence of bovine tuberculosis. [205893]

Jonathan Shaw: No decision has yet been made on whether to use badger culling to contribute to the control of TB in cattle. There is a great deal of complex evidence to consider and the matter is receiving our attention.

Departmental Contracts

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK nationals were employed in his Department's establishments in each year since 2001. [205392]

Jonathan Shaw: Although information on the nationality of candidates is collected as part of the recruitment process, the nationality of members of staff is not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dogs

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities in England employed dog wardens in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [206082]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin) on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1099W.

Ducks: Animal Welfare

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to require the provision of water for farmed ducks to swim in on welfare grounds; [205093]

(2) pursuant to the question of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 339W, on ducks, whether his Department plans to make changes to the welfare regulations relating to ducks as a result of the research project on the welfare of farmed ducks. [205168]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 13 May 2008]*: The results of the DEFRA-funded research project a "Study to Assess the Welfare of Ducks Housed in Systems Currently Used in the UK" are being prepared for publication and will be submitted to a scientific journal shortly. We will consider the report in detail before deciding on a way forward.

Energy: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the implementation of Lot 1 of the Energy-using Products Directive; and when he expects a decision on this matter to be taken by the Regulatory Committee. [206451]

Joan Ruddock: The Commission has not yet set a formal timetable for bringing forward the implementing measure on Lot 1 of the energy-using products directive, but has indicated that it expects the measure to go to the Regulatory Committee for a vote towards the end of 2008 or beginning of 2009.

Floods: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider assigning the proceeds of the fine imposed on Severn Trent plc to improvement of the sewage and drainage systems in areas affected by last year's flooding; and if he will make a statement.[1] [206892]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat is required by law to pay the fines it collects from water companies into the consolidated fund.

Plastic Bags

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage retail outlets to replace plastic bags with brown paper bags; and if he will make a statement. [206065]

Joan Ruddock: We are taking no such steps. To do so would be counterproductive in terms of direct environmental impact, and would conflict with our objective of phasing out all single use bags, whether made from plastic or paper. While paper bags are derived from a renewable resource, their manufacturing process is resource intensive. Considerable quantities of oil are used, particularly for the extraction of wood pulp. Paper bags are also heavier than plastic bags and therefore require more energy to transport, resulting in greater emissions.

Rural Areas: Finance

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the budget is for the Rural Development Programme in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [206092]

Jonathan Shaw: The total budget for 2007-08 was £392.4 million of which £192.4 million was Exchequer-funded and £200 million was funded from the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The DEFRA Exchequer-funded RDPE budget for 2008-09 is £204.4 million. The EAFRD budgets to match this funding are still being finalised. DEFRA budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been finalised.

The total RDPE budget for the seven year programme period 2007-13 (both national and EU funded) is £3.9 billion.

Stichling Hahn Hilbrich

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* value was of each (i) contract and (ii) transaction between his Department and Stichling Hahn Hilbrich in each of the last five years; and on what date each such (A) contract was signed and (B) transaction took place. [204927]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department has made no payments to Stichling Hahn Hilbrich since DEFRA was created in June 2001. Information on payments made by DEFRA outside of the core-Department is not held centrally and any information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205826]

Des Browne: In the last three years, the Scotland Office has incurred direct costs of £2,038 in 2007-08 on written consultations; nothing on consultation roadshows; and nothing on stakeholder focus groups.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activity in the last three years; and what the value of each such contract was. [205827]

Des Browne: The Scotland Office incurred no costs on consultants in the last three years.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Freedom of Information: Requests for Data Held

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what further steps the Members Estimate Committee plans to take regarding freedom of information requests for data held by the House. [207226]

Nick Harvey: The House has decided not to seek leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal against the judgment of the divisional court of 16 May 2008.

It is planned that the publication scheme announced for the autumn will now include information down to receipt level.

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[1] *[Official Report, 22 May 2008, Vol. 476, c. 6MC.]*

WALES

Public Sector: Welsh Language

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information he holds on the percentage of public sector jobs in Wales that require the ability to read or speak Welsh. [206066]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The information requested is not held centrally.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Military Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what aircraft operated by the Royal Air Force have the capability to conduct humanitarian airdrop operations. [206657]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 May 2008]*: RAF Hercules C130J and Ks are capable of conducting humanitarian airdrop operations.

Armed Forces: Leave

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of service personnel were unable to take all their annual leave in each year since 2001. [206150]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Repairs and Maintenance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many spare parts were lost in transit in 2007-08. [206141]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on losses are not held in such a way that enables the separate identification of 'spare parts'.

Armed Forces: Widowed people

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many armed forces widows voluntarily surrendered their pensions on remarriage or cohabitation in each of the last five years; and what the associated saving to the defence budget was in each year. [169976]

Derek Twigg: An exercise is currently underway to provide detailed figures. I will write to the right hon. Member as soon as this exercise is completed.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to James Arbuthnot:

Further to my letter of 14 April 2008,1 am writing to inform you that the exercise undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department has recently been completed. I am now in a position to provide you with a full answer to your parliamentary question (PQ00549U refers).

You requested details of how many armed forces widows in each of the last five years voluntarily surrendered their pension on remarriage or cohabitation. The following table provides data in respect of the number of pension cessations due to remarriages and cohabitations over the last 25 years. You may agree that this level of detail provides a more comprehensive overview.

	Number
1983-86	32
1987-89	54
1990-92	193
1993-95	200
1996-98	204
1999-2001	171
2002-04	230
2005-07	44
Total	1,128

As you are aware, entitlement to an AFPS 75 widow's non-attributable pension ceases in the event of remarriage or cohabitation and the onus is on individuals to notify the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) should there be a change in their personal circumstances. This is a compulsory requirement to comply with the AFPS 75 scheme rules.

Contrary to these statistics representing a saving to the defence budget, I should point out that costs would have been incurred if these spouses' pensions had not ceased on re-marriage or cohabitation. The estimated capitalised cost of paying back payments (plus interest) to those individuals represented in the table, whose pensions were ceased, as well as the cost of paying those pensions in future would be around £150 million.

The capitalised cost of removing the cessation condition completely for the future would be between £70 million and £350 million. The reason for the range in figures is that the AFPS 75 statistics are not consistent with the UK population remarriage statistics. This could be due to a reduction in the reporting of remarriage and cohabitation in recent years.

I am sorry that it has taken so long to provide a substantive reply, but it has required a bespoke exercise to be conducted to generate sufficient data for the scheme actuary to be able to analyse.

I hope this is helpful.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Bushmaster vehicles have been ordered; for what purpose they are intended; what the cost of the order is; in which theatre of operation they are to be used; when they will be delivered; and if he will make a statement. [206526]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that we have ordered 24 Bushmaster vehicles at a unit cost of about £0.500 million, including spares. I am withholding the further information requested as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces

Army: Recruitment

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what targets he has for recruitment of Commonwealth citizens into the Army. [206114]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army currently has no target for the recruitment of Commonwealth citizens. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 1577W, to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice).

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits were made by Army recruitment selection teams to Commonwealth countries in each year since 1997. [206115]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army does not actively recruit overseas with the exception of Gurkhas from Nepal. Any Commonwealth or Irish citizen residing overseas who wishes to apply to join the Army must travel to the UK at their own expense to undergo the selection process. However, in recent years the Army has sent selection teams to some Commonwealth countries at the specific request of the government concerned, and even then only when evidence suggests that there is sufficient interest among the local population to merit a visit. The selection teams screen out those who are not thought capable of meeting the full entry standards, to save them the cost of an abortive trip to the UK to undergo the recruitment selection process. The selection team will only see those who have made an application to the Overseas Cell of the Army's Recruiting Group.

Since 1997 Army Overseas Selection Teams have visited Fiji 10 times, St Vincent and the Grenadines three times and St Lucia twice. In addition a team has this month just commenced a visit to St Lucia and Belize.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the Army he estimates will be non-UK citizens in each year from 2009 to 2015. [206116]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Foreign and Commonwealth citizens (excluding Gurkhas) currently represent seven per cent. of trained Army strength compared to six per cent. as at March 2007 and six per cent. as at May 2006. No forecasts have been made for future years and it is therefore not possible to provide an estimate for each year from 2009 to 2015.

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 835W, on AWE Burghfield, on whose authority live nuclear work was suspended at AWE Burghfield, as described in the Health and Safety Executive Quarterly Report for 1 October to 31 December 2007; on what date work was suspended; what work needs to take place before live nuclear work resumes; on what date work is expected to resume; on whose authority this will take place; and whether he was informed of this suspension; [205054]

(2) on what date the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate stopped live nuclear work at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield; for what reason the work was stopped; when he expects work to recommence; and if he will make a statement. [202110]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As a result of temporary disruption due to flooding at AWE Burghfield, the nuclear site licensee, AWE plc, took a decision not to undertake live nuclear working while remedial work was undertaken. This decision was taken on 20 July 2007, in consultation with the nuclear installations inspectorate (NII) and with Ministry of Defence officials, and was consistent with our planned operational programmes. Precise details on these programmes, including live working dates, are being withheld for the purposes of safeguarding national security.

While necessary work to repair flood damage was ongoing, the opportunity was taken to maximise completion of existing work identified from AWE's routine Periodic Review of Safety (PRS), as a parallel activity. Work varied in different facilities, examples include: replacing floors, plasterwork and doors; replacing electrical equipment; mechanical, electrical and lighting improvements and new vacuum and compressed air systems. Live working has already resumed. Facilities have been subject to rigorous scrutiny through AWE plc's governance process with inspection by, and authority from, the NII.

Ministry of Defence officials maintain a constant dialogue with AWE plc and NII colleagues have been consulted throughout. The disruption did not have an adverse effect on the UK deterrent programme, and AWE Burghfield maintains its capability to support the deterrent safely under highly regulated arrangements.

BOWMAN Combat Radio System

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average life of VHF manpack batteries for the Bowman radio is; [204001]

(2) what the average range of the Bowman radio is; [204002]

(3) how many representations his Department has received about the longevity of the VHF manpack batteries used in Bowman radios. [204003]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Bowman VHF manpack battery has an average battery life of approximately four years, based on delivery of 300 life cycles. Within these parameters, the VHF radio battery is expected to last between six to 12 hours before it requires recharging, dependent on the intensity of use and the life cycle history.

There are several types of Bowman radio, which differ in range dependent on radio type, power, antennae, terrain and weather conditions. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

The Ministry of Defence is not aware of any representations specifically on the longevity of the VHF manpack batteries used in Bowman radios.

Cyprus

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on UN Forces (Cyprus), what the mission of the 250 reservists will be once deployed to Cyprus. [206631]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The mission of the 250-plus reservists due to deploy to Cyprus in October will be to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) mandate, which is to prevent a recurrence of fighting, maintain a stable environment and de-escalate the military presence along the Buffer Zone in order to enable a just and lasting political solution.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on UN Forces (Cyprus), whether the 250 reservists have been notified of their future deployment. [206641]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The process of selection and training of Reservists to serve on the next deployment for Op TOSCA with the UN in Cyprus will culminate in full notice of call-out (which is a minimum of 28-days) prior to their mobilisation. This will not need to take place until later this year.

Defence Equipment and Support

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what amount of efficiency savings Defence Equipment and Support are required to make in 2007-08. [203202]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the spending review 2004 efficiency programme, the MOD is required to achieve £2.83 billion of cumulative input and output efficiency savings by the end of 2007-08. Defence Equipment and Support is forecasting a contribution of approximately £1 billion towards this target, with an additional £150 million being forecast as a result of Logistics Transformation in the Front Line Commands.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204703]

Derek Twigg: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the Civil Service website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp.

The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008.

Since 2004, when the Cabinet Office set its diversity targets, the Ministry of Defence has made progress towards improving the diversity of its work force. In keeping with a number of Departments, the MOD was set its own targets within the overall civil service target. These targets recognised the lower baseline figure from which the MOD were working, but remained both meaningful and stretching.

We have, as a result, exceeded our targets for those with disabilities within the senior civil service, and narrowly missed our targets for women, and women in top management positions. Nevertheless, we have continued to make good progress in the right direction. We have, however, been unsuccessful in improving the numbers of ethnic minorities in our senior civil service, despite having initiatives in place to try and do so.

We are also making good progress in grades that feed into the senior civil service. For example, the MOD Fast Stream (the civil service graduate scheme), is now just over 48 per cent. women and over 9 per cent. ethnic minorities.

Departmental Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Claims Annual Report for 2007-08. [206151]

Derek Twigg: Copies of the Ministry of Defence's Claims Annual Report have been placed in the Library of the House each year since it was first published in 1997-98. The 2007-08 report is scheduled to be published in July 2008 and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Fuels

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance he has issued on security arrangements to ensure the safe functioning of his Department's petroleum storage depots; and if he will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [206156]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All Ministry of Defence establishments follow Government policy on the appropriate physical security measures to protect assets and personnel.

Release of the details of such measures could compromise both the security of such establishments and the health and safety of those employed there.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar, *(e)* VC-10 and (f) Nimrod aircraft are (i) in service, (ii) in the forward fleet and (iii) fit for purpose. [206152]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number and percentage of C-17, C-130J, C-130K, Tristar, VC10 and Nimrod that are in the Forward Available Fleet and considered Fit for Purpose (FFP) during the month of April are detailed in the following table. Forward Available Fleet (FAF) aircraft are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes; aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are not included. Aircraft defined as Fit for Purpose are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. The figures shown are the average for the month of April 2008, and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

	Number in service	*Average number of aircraft in Forward Available Fleet*	*Average percentage of total fleet in FAF*	*Average number of aircraft Fit for Purpose*	*Average percentage FFP of Forward Available Fleet*
C-17[1]	5	3	60	2	74
Tristar	9	7	78	5	78
VC10	16	12	75	7	56
C-130K	19	12	62	9	77
C-130J	24	18	75	13	74
Nimrod MR2	15	10	63	6	65
Nimrod R1	3	2	50	1	61

[1] The fifth C-17 was delivered for squadron service in this month and is only counted in the Fit for Purpose statistics from 10 April 2008.

Nimrod Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fuel leakages on a Nimrod aircraft have been reported since January 2007. [199452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Reserve Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian employer complaints his Department received on the deployment of reserve forces in the last period for which figures are available; and what percentage of the total number of deployments this represents. [206155]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the Reserve Forces Act 1996, the employer of a member of the reserve forces is entitled to apply for his or her employee's exemption from call out or recall into permanent or mobilised service or to have the employee's call out or recall deferred or revoked or, if the employee has been accepted into service, to seek his or her release from permanent service. Such an application is made to a service adjudication officer, whose decision or determination can be challenged by way of a re-hearing of the application by a Reserve Forces Appeal Tribunal, a judicial body independent of the Ministry of Defence.

As detailed in the following table, in 10 cases only have applications for exemption, etc., by employers been decided at Reserve Forces Appeal Tribunals, established on 1 April 1997, since which more than 17,000 members of the reserve forces have been deployed on mobilised service.

Reserve Forces Appeal Tribunals—employer exemption cases —1 April 1997 to 16 May 2008

	Number
Appeals registered	[1]52
Appeals later withdrawn or settled out of court	42
Appeals decided at tribunal	[1]10
Appeals decided for the appellant employer	2
Appeals decided for the Respondent Service Authority	[1]8

[1] One case only since March 2004.

Russia: Military Aircraft

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions RAF aircraft have flown sorties in response to unannounced incursions by Russian military aircraft into areas adjacent to United Kingdom airspace in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [206366]

Des Browne: In the last 12 months no Russian aircraft have penetrated UK national airspace. However, Russian aircraft have approached or entered the NATO Air Policing Area (APA) for which the UK has responsibility.

I am withholding the exact dates that Russian military aircraft entered the APA as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. However, the following table gives the number of days within a month that Quick Reaction Alert aircraft have been launched to identify Russian military aircraft approaching or entering the APA.

	Number
2007	
May	0
June	0
July	2
August	1
September	3
October	4
November	5
December	2
2008	
January	2
February	0
March	1
April	1

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: Location

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, (1) what steps he will take to *(a)* minimise the potential for disruption and *(b)* retain (i) skills and (ii) service levels in relation to the proposed re-location of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency; and if he will make a statement; [204670]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Business Case for the re-location of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency; and if he will make a statement; [204676]

(3) what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department associated with re-locating the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency; and if he will make a statement; [204677]

(4) when he plans to make a statement on the proposed re-location of the Service personnel and Veterans Agency. [204678]

Derek Twigg: I will write shortly to the hon. Member regarding my decision about the proposed relocation of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency functions undertaken currently at Innsworth Station.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Andrew Murrison:

You may recall that I wrote to you on 22 April (ref: D/US of S/DT MC02052/2008) in reply to your letter of 2 April (ref: AM/JCP/29/020408) enclosing one from your constituent, Ms K Eastwood of 17 Fush Court, Priors Road, Prestbury, Cheltenham who expressed her concern about the proposed relocation of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) from Innsworth to Gosport and Norcross.

As you will be aware from my letter to you on this issue, I undertook to write to you once I had made my decision. I trust you will also accept this as my written reply to your written questions ref 204670,204676, 204677 and 204678.

I have considered carefully all of the issues surrounding the options outlined within the Future Accommodation Study (FAS) for the relocation of the SPVA functions from Innsworth, and have decided that SPVA should retain a four site structure based at Centurion Building, Gosport, Tomlinson House, Norcross, Kentigern House, Glasgow and Building 247, Innsworth (i.e. Option One under the FAS).

While I recognise that there would be business benefits in the medium term to be gained from moving the SPVA functions currently undertaken at Innsworth, I consider that the risks associated with moving the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre and the MOD Medal Office at this time, given the vital role and the excellent service they provide, to outweigh these benefits. Therefore, I have decided that, on balance, those functions currently undertaken at SPVA Innsworth should remain there for the foreseeable future.

Territorial Army

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the required complement of Territorial Army driver training instructors is; and how many such instructors there are. [206209]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is a requirement for each TA unit to have one driving instructor on strength with two in infantry battalions. This equates to a requirement for 128 driving instructors in TA units. This requirement may be filled by either TA or regular personnel within the TA unit.

There are 66 members of the TA whose current role includes Defence Driving Instructor duties. This is supplemented by the use of contractors to deliver driver training.

Territorial Army: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army personnel from Northern Ireland took part in active service outside the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [205937]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of Territorial Army (TA) personnel, with their permanent residence in Northern Ireland, who have been mobilised for operations or in support of operations outside the United Kingdom in each year since 2003 is as follows:

	Number of TA personnel mobilised
2003	280
2004	173
2005	70
2006	23
2007	108
2008 (as at 15 May 2008)	43

The duration of mobilised service is generally 11 and a half months (invariably spanning two calendar years) and includes a period of pre-deployment training and integration, the operational tour itself, decompression, demobilisation and a mandatory period of post operational leave.

TRANSPORT

Airports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the membership of the External Advisory Group looking at airport-related issues is; on what dates it has met since September 2004; and which of those meetings have been attended by Ministers. [206138]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The membership of the Department for Transport's External Advisory Group looking at airport-related issues is:

Air Transport Users Council
Airport Operators Association
Aviation Environment Federation
BAA
Board of airline representatives in the UK
British Air Transport Association
British Airways
Confederation of British Industry
DHL
Friends of the Earth
Manchester Airports Group
Scottish Executive
Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group
Sustainable Development Commission
TUI Travel
Virgin Atlantic

Since September 2004, it has met on the following dates:

	Date
2004	16 September
2005	4 February
	16 June
	28 October
2006	28 February
	6 July
	18 September
	1 November
2007	16 July
	15 October
2008	29 February

None of the meetings was attended by a Minister.

Airports: Security Guards

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will impose a three-year residency requirement for foreign nationals seeking employment as security workers at UK airports. [206680]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We announced in December 2007 that the Government have commissioned an independent review, led by Stephen Boys Smith, into the current arrangements for pre-employment checks in the transport industry. The review is looking at the arrangements regarding foreign nationals working at UK airports and will report to Ministers in the summer.

Aviation: Noise

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will make it her policy to seek to limit and reduce the impact of aircraft noise on *(a)* National Parks and *(b)* Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and if she will make a statement; [205238]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the effect on *(a)* National Parks and *(b)* Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty of (i) current and (ii)

projected patterns of aircraft noise; and if she will make a statement; [205239]

(3) what steps she has taken to rural-proof her Department's policy on aircraft noise. [205240]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is responsible for approving the use of UK airspace, as part of its role to develop and enforce a policy for the sustainable use of that airspace. The process for making changes to airspace is governed by the CAA's Airspace Change Process under which it is for airspace change sponsors, such as NATS, to develop proposals and then consult on them.

The Secretary of State for Transport has issued Directions (2001) to the CAA requiring it to take into account the need to reduce, control and mitigate as far as possible the environmental impacts of civil aircraft operations. Supporting Guidance (2002) encourages the CAA, as far as possible to avoid routes below 7,000 ft over built-up areas and to pursue policies that help to preserve the tranquillity of the countryside, such as avoiding overflight of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where this does not add to the environmental burdens on more densely populated areas.

The Directions and Guidance are on the Department for Transport's website:

www.dft.gov.uk

Cycling

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to encourage an increase in the number of people taking the national standards for cycle training. [206772]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We announced in March this year grants of over £3 million to local authorities to train an additional 80,000 children to the national standard. We are also making available £1 million for direct cycle training grants to schools through the School Sports Partnerships. This will provide funds for around a further 25,000 children to receive national standard training.

This builds on the 46,000 children for whom we have already funded training via local authorities and School Sports Partnerships.

Further grants will be made available, through Cycling England over the next few years to achieve our target of providing cycle training for 500,000 children by 2012.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in meeting the Government's national cycling strategy objective to increase cycle journeys to eight per cent. of journeys by 2012. [206773]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The White Paper on the Future of Transport (CM 6324) published in July 2004 announced a move away from the "one size fits all" national target towards working closely with individual local authorities to put in place sharper, more focused, local plans and targets for walking and cycling.

We announced in January a six fold increase in Cycling England's budget to £140 million over the next three years to work with local authorities and others to increase cycling.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many receptions she has hosted and funded in her capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203853]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We will publish, in due course, an annual list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in the Department in the course of the previous financial year.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205844]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Consultation exercises form an integral part of policymaking and as such are funded from policy teams' budgets rather than from a consultation budget, and so a total cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projects sponsored by her Department were subject to Gateway reviews in each of the last four years; what status each project was assigned under such reviews; how much her Department spent on Gateway reviews in each such year; and if she will make a statement. [205867]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* There are three types of Gateway reviews: high, medium and low risk. Some of these reviews are organised and recorded centrally and information about these is provided in a table, which has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Other reviews are delivered and recorded locally and information about these could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Gateway reports, including the findings and status, are conducted on a confidential basis for Senior Responsible Owners (SROs). We do not make this information routinely public.

A key principle of Gateway reviews is that they are cost-neutral. However, where there is a shortfall in civil service Gateway reviewers, suitably accredited external resource may be used. The Department has spent around £115,000 per annum in this way.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Industrial Action

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what involvement the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has in civil contingency planning; and what impact the industrial action by agency staff has had on civil contingency plans. [206782]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As a Category 1 responder under the terms of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) co-operates and shares information with other responders, planning to prevent and respond to emergencies, planning for business continuity and warning and informing the public in the event of an emergency. This is mostly achieved by engaging with local resilience fora.

The importance of civil contingencies planning has been recognised by the MCA within its revised management structure and has been given additional resources.

The MCA is not aware of any instance where staff have withdrawn from civil contingencies planning activities in the last 12 months as a result of industrial action.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency have withdrawn from civil contingencies planning activities as a result of industrial action in the last 12 months. [206582]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The MCA is not aware of any instance where staff have withdrawn from civil contingencies planning activities in the last 12 months as a result of industrial action.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Manpower

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff joined the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in each year since 1997; and how many left the Agency in each of these years, broken down by reason for ending employment. [206713]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is available only for 2003 onwards.

The number of starters at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, by year, is shown in the following table:

	Starters
2003	193
2004	155
2005	151
2006	139
2007	140
2008 (to date)	30

Exit questionnaires for leavers are not compulsory and have been used only since 2004. The number of leavers, by year, with primary reason for leaving is shown in the following table:

	Primary exit reason	*Total*
2003	No reason	119
	Pay	1
2003 Total		120
2004	Change of career	15
	Dislike job/Unhappy with present job	3
	Dislike of working methods	1
	Family commitments	3
	Further education	8
	Lack of promotion prospects	2
	Lack of training	1
	Moving to another location	14
	No reason	69
	Pay	5
	Seeking more responsibility	2
	Unhappy with management	2
	Unhappy with work location	1
2004 Total		126
2005	Change of career	13
	Dislike job/Unhappy with present job	5
	Family commitments	3
	Further education	10
	Lack of promotion prospects	3
	Moving to another location	13
	No reason	85
	Pay	5
	Seeking more responsibility	5
	Travel to work difficulties/Expense	3
	Unhappy with hours of work	1
	Unhappy with management	3
	Unhappy with work environment	1
2005 Total		150
2006	Bullying/Harassment	1
	Change of career	22
	Dislike job/Unhappy with present job	4
	Dislike of working methods	1
	Family commitments	2
	Further education	7
	Lack of promotion prospects	6
	Moving to another location	12
	No reason	72
	Overworked	1
	Pay	7
	Seeking more responsibility	2
	Travel to work difficulties/Expense	2
	Unhappy with hours of work	3
	Unhappy with management	2
2006 Total		144
2007	Change of career	26
	Dislike job/Unhappy with present job	2
	Family commitments	3
	Further education	9
	Lack of promotion prospects	4
	Moving to another location	8
	No reason	71
	Overworked	1

	Primary exit reason	*Total*
	Pay	8
	Seeking more responsibility	4
	Travel to work difficulties/Expense	2
	Unhappy with management	2
2007 Total		140
2008 (to date)	Change of career	10
	Family commitments	1
	Lack of promotion prospects	1
	Moving to another location	7
	No reason	29
	Pay	7
	Seeking more responsibility	1
	Unhappy with work environment	1
2008 Total (to date)		57

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff who started employment with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency since 1997 left employment within *(a)* one year and *(b)* two years. [206714]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is available only for 2003 onwards.

The numbers of staff who started employment with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency since 1997 that have left within *(a)* one year and *(b)* two years is shown in the following table:

	(a) Left within 1 year	*(b) Left within 2 years (but greater than 1)*
2003	31	8
2004	14	17
2005	16	17
2006	22	13
2007	23	18
2008 (to date)	11	8
Total	117	81

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff the Maritime and Coastguard Agency *(a)* employs and *(b)* employed in 1997, broken down by (i) grade and (ii) office. [206715]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is only available from 2002.

The number of staff employed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency is shown for 2002 and for 2008 by (i) grade and (ii) office location is shown in the following tables.

(i) by grade

Grade	*2002*	*Headcount 2008*
AA	172	182
AO	340	369
EO	261	268
HEO	122	128
SEO	134	171
Grade 7	98	91
Grade 6	20	17
SCS	3	2
Total	1150	1228

(ii) by office

Office	*2002*	*Headcount 2008*
Aberdeen	61	61
Belfast	34	38
Brixham	34	31
Cardiff	46	49
Clyde	55	61
Dover	39	36
Falmouth	38	40
Forth	27	27
Highcliffe	18	18
Holyhead	26	28
Hull	20	23
Number	35	36
Leith	4	2
Liverpool	40	44
London	10	8
Milford	33	29
Orpington	12	15
Plymouth	9	9
Portland	29	31
Shetland	21	26
Solent	33	33
Spring Place	358	417
Stockton	5	7
Stornoway	30	32
Swansea	47	42
Thames	31	36
Tyne	21	15
Yarmouth	34	34
Total	1150	1228

Ministers: Official Cars

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1020W, on Ministers: official cars, which former Ministers have been provided with cars by the Government Car and Despatch Agency since 1 January 2005. [204778]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of the numbers and cost of Government cars provided to Departments. The list for 2007-08, which will be published before the summer recess, will include information relating to cars provided to former Ministers.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many exemptions from road tax in each band were granted to disabled people in the last 12 months. [206788]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There were approximately 1.12 million vehicle excise duty exemptions granted to disabled people during 2007.

Public Transport: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what proportion of bus and train providers she expects to have fulfilled their accessibility targets by *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2020; [206610]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to encourage bus and train providers to meet the deadlines under Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 for accessibility; [206611]

(3) what proportion of bus and train providers have met the accessibility goals set by the Government. [206622]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Latest figures showed that 58 per cent. of buses were low floor and wheelchair accessible at 31 March 2007. This rises to over 80 per cent. in urban areas and 100 per cent. in London. The Disability Discrimination Act requires that all buses with a carrying capacity exceeding 22 passengers and used on local or scheduled services must comply with accessibility regulations by the start of 2017.

Over 4,700 accessible rail vehicles have been introduced into service since 1998 when the accessibility regulations took effect.

Railways: Stansted Airport

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if officials in her Department will meet representatives of Arriva Trains Cross Country in advance of decisions related to the December 2008 timetable change to discuss the provision of earlier weekday and weekend services between Peterborough and Stansted Airport. [206028]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are currently no plans to meet representatives of Arriva Cross Country Trains Ltd. to discuss the provision of earlier services between Peterborough and Stansted airport.

Provided Arriva Cross Country meets the minimum specification for this route, as set out in its franchise agreement, any decision on operating additional services is one for Arriva to take. Such decisions would be made on a commercial basis to meet passenger demand.

Railways: Tickets

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions her Department has had with train operating companies on the introduction of smartcard ticketing; and if she will make a statement; [206204]

(2) what cost-benefit analysis her Department has undertaken into smartcard ticketing across the rail network. [206205]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport, Transport for London and train operators are working together on the acceptance of Oyster Pay as You Go on rail services in the London Travelcard Zones and the acceptance of ITSO Smartcards on Oyster equipment. Commercial and contractual negotiations are taking place.

The introduction of ITSO smartcards has been mandated in the most recently let franchises—South Western, West Midlands, East Midlands and Intercity East Coast, with the New Cross Country Franchise accepting smartcard tickets issued by other operators.

The costs and benefits of these smartcard schemes have been demonstrated in the confidential bidding process for these franchises.

Roads: Accidents

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of road accidents which resulted in death or serious injury involved drivers aged *(a)* over 75, *(b)* between 40 and 74 and *(c)* 18 to 39 years old in the last 12 months. [206952]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest reported personal injury road accident data available are for 2006. Data for 2007 data will be published on 26 June 2008.

In 2006, 4 per cent. of reported personal injury road accidents resulting in death or serious injury involved drivers aged 75 and over, 50 per cent. involved drivers aged between 40 and 74 years old and 65 per cent. involved drivers aged between 18 and 39 years old.

The total of these percentages exceed 100 per cent. as some accidents involve more than one driver. Information on damage only accidents is not collected.

Speed Limits: Road Signs and Markings

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the criteria are for the use of speed advisory signs on motorways; who is responsible for authorising the *(a)* operation of such signs and *(b)* the advisory speed displayed; what mechanisms are in place to provide assurance that such advice is appropriate; and if she will make a statement. [206521]

Mr. Tom Harris: The criteria that are used to set electronic speed advisory signs on the motorway are contained in the Policy and Procedures for the use of matrix signals by the Regional Control Centres which has been agreed between the Highways Agency (HA) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). These signs can be set automatically by the system software or manually by the HA Regional Control Centre staff (RCC). The decision to set signals should be based on the information available and is the responsibility of the officer (Traffic Officer or police in charge of the incident at the scene) or the operator in the control room. Where an advisory speed limit sign is set manually by the operator, the decision on the advisory speed displayed is based upon information received from a number of sources including CCTV, traffic officers and police at the scene.

An RCC operator who has set signals manually has to monitor the situation to revise the signal setting as necessary, to prevent the setting of a misleading or contradictory series of signals and VMS messages and remove them when the incident has cleared. The automatic system will clear the signal once the incident has cleared.

Transport: Research

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what analytical issues are subject to consideration by the Eddington Friends group; and if she will make a statement. [206139]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Eddington Friends consider a broad range of implementation issues arising from the 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System' report.

This includes advice on technical appraisal, the appraisal of wider productivity impacts, climate change analysis and analysis of scheme costs and benefits.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next meeting of his Department's Burma stakeholder group will be held; and what the Government's objectives for the meeting are. [206023]

Meg Munn: The most recent meeting of Burma stakeholders took place on 14 May, at which there was an exchange of views on the situation following Cyclone Nargis. There is no set date for the next meeting but it is our intention to maintain regular dialogue with stakeholders. The objective for all our stakeholder meetings is to exchange views and information with those groups and individuals that have an interest in Burma's future.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the sentences handed down in China to demonstrators and human rights activists over Tibet; and if he will make a statement. [206282]

Meg Munn: We are deeply concerned about the recent sentencing of Tibetans in connection with the demonstrations in Lhasa in March. Together, with EU partners, we continue to urge China to guarantee fair trials for all the accused, including access for defendants to Counsel of their choice and access for independent observers to trials.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of political prisoners in Cuba; and what recent representations he has made to the Government of Cuba on this matter. [206203]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1478W.

The EU Common Position on Cuba calls for the release of all political prisoners. We regularly raise the situation of political prisoners with the Cuban authorities, both in London and Havana, and call for their immediate release. Most recently, I raised the release of political prisoners with Jaime Crombert Hernandez-Baquero, Vice President of the National Assembly of People's Power, in November 2007 and Cuban Vice Foreign Minister, Eumelio Caballero, in April 2008.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many unique visitors there have been to each site on his Department's bloggers platform in the last 12 months. [206179]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The statistics available to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the blogging platform are for the site as a whole and show the number of sessions. From September 2007 (when the site was set up) to 14 May 2008, there were 2,393,244 individual sessions on the platform. The statistics are not broken down by individual blog, nor can we say how many unique visitors there were.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he was last given any substantive information about the *(a)* welfare of, *(b)* proposed trial of and *(c)* other matters relevant to Mr. Simon Mann by the Equatorial Guinea authorities. [206290]

Meg Munn: The Equatorial Guinea authorities have recently given us assurances about Simon Mann's welfare. We have not been given any further information about the proposed trial.

Somalia: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to engage civil society in Somalia in the peace process. [205754]

Meg Munn: Our high commission in Nairobi maintains regular contact with representatives of civil society groups in Somalia. In the UK, we maintain contact with representatives of the British Somali communities who also have an important role in supporting civil society groups in Somalia.

The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould Abdalla, held an international civil society meeting in Uganda from 11-13 March 2008, which was funded by the European Commission and attended by high commission officials. The meeting explored ways for civil society to contribute to reconciliation and peace building in Somalia.

The UK supports the efforts of the UN Special Representative for Somalia to engage with civil society and to help bring about social and political reconciliation that will lead to greater respect for human rights and religious freedoms for all Somalis.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a UN Security Council Resolution on Somalia addressing piracy issues is expected. [205803]

Meg Munn: The UN Security Council is currently considering a draft Resolution on piracy, which has been co-sponsored by the UK. We hope the Resolution will be adopted as soon as possible once discussion in the Council is complete.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the organisation of peace talks on Darfur in London between the Government of Sudan, rebel groups and other stakeholders, following the Prime Minister's offer in April 2008 to host such talks; and whether a date has been agreed for the talks. [205804]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has offered further UK support for international efforts, including a possible meeting in the UK, if that would help revitalise the Darfur political process. We are exploring the scope for this with the UN, the African Union, Sudan's neighbours, international partners, the Government of Sudan and the Darfur Movements.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have been held with the AU and UN Special Envoys to Darfur, Salid Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [205805]

Meg Munn: We have had contacts with the African Union (AU) and UN Special Envoys at ministerial and official level. We also have regular contacts with their staff. These discussions are part of our ongoing efforts to support AU/UN activity to move the Darfur political process forward.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* troops and *(b)* civilian personnel made up the UN-AU Joint Hybrid Mission to Darfur on 1 May; and if he will make a statement. [205806]

Meg Munn: As of 1 May the UN-African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur consisted of approximately 7,500 troops, 1,700 police, and 1,500 civilian personnel. We are working closely with the UN, the AU and international partners to support the full deployment of the mission as soon as possible.

Uganda: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he is providing to the process of peace-building in Northern Uganda. [205781]

Meg Munn: Over the last two years, the UK has provided over £40 million in humanitarian aid, and other assistance, to Northern Uganda. These resources have been used to help displaced people return to their homes and support other activities identified as priorities in the Government of Uganda's peace, recovery and development plan for the north. The UK has also contributed £1 million to the Juba Initiative Fund, to help support the Juba peace talks.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to raise public awareness of the size of alcohol units in relation to standard measures served; and whether his Department has undertaken research to discover levels of public awareness of appropriate levels of alcohol consumption. [204901]

Dawn Primarolo: On 19 May, the Government launched the first major advertising campaign to raise awareness about units and to help people to estimate how much alcohol they drink. The Government will spend £10 million this year on national alcohol campaigns.

The units strand of the Know Your Limits campaign includes a series of adverts on television, radio, billboards and press. A new online calculator can be downloaded to help people add up the units in their drinks. There are free materials, including posters and leaflets.

The inclusion of unit content and sensible drinking advice on most drinks labels by the end of 2008, by agreement with the alcohol industry, will also raise awareness of units and health risks.

The "Drinking: adults' behaviour and knowledge in 2007" report is based on information collected by the Office for National Statistics Omnibus survey covering adults in the United Kingdom. The latest report published in January is the seventh in a series and includes information on peoples' knowledge of alcohol units and benchmarks (the sensible drinking guidelines on regular daily intake), their awareness of unit labelling, what people drink, where and with whom and whether they had discussed drinking with a medical professional.

The report found that in Great Britain in 2007, 85 per cent. of adults had heard of measuring alcohol consumption in units, compared with 79 per cent. in 1997. It also found that there has been an increase from 54 per cent. in 1997 to 69 per cent. in 2007 in the proportion of adults who had heard of the sensible drinking guidelines on regular daily intake. In 2007, around 40 per cent. of these adults did not know what the benchmarks were.

The Government commissioned a YouGov poll to inform the new alcohol units campaign described above. The YouGov poll shows that the majority of men (78 per cent.) and women (76 per cent.) do not know how many units are in a large glass of wine and that 56 per cent. of men and 60 per cent. of women do not know how many units are in a double gin and tonic.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people attending accident and emergency departments in England presented with *(a)* alcohol-related conditions and *(b)* injuries in which alcohol was a contributory cause in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [204380]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the numbers of people admitted to hospital accident and emergency departments as a result of binge drinking in the latest period for which figures are available. [206020]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on numbers of people who attend accident and emergency departments as a result of binge drinking is not held centrally.

Blood: Medical Treatments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS treatments involving *(a)* adult and *(b)* cord blood stem cells are ongoing; and if he will make a statement. [206128]

Dawn Primarolo: One of the most successful exploitations of adult stem cells to date has been in the use of bone marrow transplantation for a variety of conditions including leukaemia and lymphoma. More than 2,500 bone marrow transplantations are performed each year in the United Kingdom. More recently, cord blood stem cells have been used as an alternative source of stem cells. In the past three years, the NHS Cord Blood Bank has issued both unrelated and directed cord blood units to treat 115 patients and these numbers continue to grow annually.

Cancer: East of England

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to the East of England Strategic Health Authority on the provision of oncological services in the region in the last three years; [205397]

(2) what provisions there are in the private finance initiative agreement between his Department and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on the number of *(a)* oncological procedures and *(b)* head and neck cancer procedures to be carried out at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. [205433]

Ann Keen: It is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with their strategic health authorities (SHAs) and other stakeholders to plan and commission services for their local populations, including oncological services. The Department has not issued any guidance to the East of England SHA on the provision of oncological services in the region.

Since May 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG) to the national health service on four cancer tumour sites—Children and Young People with Cancer (August 2005), Skin Tumours including melanoma (February 2006), Sarcoma (March 2006) and Brain (June 2006). The IOG series sets out recommendations on how services for patients with cancers should be organised in order to ensure the best outcomes. Implementation of NICE guidance is a developmental standard and the Healthcare Commission is responsible for assessing progress of healthcare organisations towards achieving developmental standards.

Private finance initiative contracts are held locally between NHS trusts and the contractors, and contain no clauses for the provision of clinical services.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women in *(a)* Hemsworth constituency and *(b)* England received cervical smear tests within the recommended period of time in the last 12 months. [206042]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the response I gave the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 617-36W, which provides information on cervical screening coverage across England, broken down by primary care trust.

Coverage is the percentage of eligible women who have had a cervical screening test result in the previous five years.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were dispensed for *(a)* subutex, *(b)* methadone and *(c)* other opiate replacements in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [197960]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

The Government have made a substantial investment in drug treatment with £604 million being spent in 2007-08 compared to £287 million in 2001-02. The increased dispensing is largely a reflection of the significant increase in the numbers of patients in drug treatment over the past 10 years, increases in dosages and people staying in treatment longer (a measure of effectiveness) thereby receiving more prescriptions.

Prescription items for subutex[1] dispensed in the community in England

Thousand

Strategic health authority (SHA)	*February to December 2003[2]*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East of England	22.4	38.8	45.1	51.9	53.3
London	21.1	34.9	49.6	68.4	71.4
North East	17.0	29.8	35.0	39.5	42.0
North West	41.2	63.0	71.4	83.9	87.3
South Central	26.6	41.7	47.2	51.1	49.6
South East Coast	17.1	30.8	32.2	33.3	32.4
South West	29.2	40.6	45.9	53.3	59.4
West Midlands	48.2	66.8	69.3	72.4	71.8

Prescription items for subutex[1] dispensed in the community in England

Thousand

Strategic health authority (SHA)	*February to December 2003*[2]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Yorkshire and the Humber	48.8	82.4	92.9	104.8	103.3
Total	292.0	462.8	532.7	610.8	621.0

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA).

Prescription items for methadone[3] (all formulations) dispensed in the community in England

Thousand

SHA	*February to December 2003*[2]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East of England	104.8	125.7	137.4	151.4	167.3
London	219.7	253.5	264.6	278.4	299.0
North East	95.6	141.5	167.2	183.2	193.6
North West	404.8	455.9	473.3	492.9	514.5
South Central	70.8	76.6	91.3	102.3	117.8
South East Coast	68.8	75.1	78.7	89.4	108.0
South West	125.8	150.8	169.7	182.5	204.7
West Midlands	141.6	188.1	226.6	265.8	291.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	176.4	232.5	293.9	355.9	394.2
Total	1,486.7	1,810.0	2,044.0	2,277.1	2,491.9

Source: PCA.

Prescription items for suboxone[4] dispensed in the community in England

Thousand

SHA	*2006*	*2007*
East of England	0	0.9
London	0	0.2
North East	0	0.3
North West	0	2.9
South Central	0	3.3
South East Coast	0	0.6
South West	0	2.9
West Midlands	<0.1	1.0
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	6.3
Total	<0.1	19.3

[1] Subutex is a brand name for buprenorphine and is a substitution treatment for opioid drug dependence.

[2] The prescription pricing division of the NHS business services authority keeps data for only 60 months. The figures provided cover the period from February 2003 up to the end of 2007. The SHA is the one in which the prescription was dispensed.

[3] Methadone is prescribed for use in the treatment of opioid drug addiction, however it is also used in the treatment of cough in terminal disease and analgesia. The figures reflect prescriptions dispensed for all indications and formulations.

[4] The only other substantive treatment for opioid drug dependence is suboxone, a combination of buprenorphine and naloxone. This was not dispensed earlier than 1 December 2006.

Source:
PCA.

Exercise

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to subsidising participation in physical activity and sport to effect improvements in quality adjusted life years. [205885]

Dawn Primarolo: As stated in the "Healthy Weight Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England", the Department is considering a range of different kinds of interventions to tackle the burden of lifestyle diseases. We are in discussions with the fitness industry and other stakeholders about ways in which we can encourage more people to become more physically active. Copies of the strategy are available in the Library.

The Department is building its knowledge of which interventions are most effective in encouraging individuals and families to change their behaviour and will provide resources to seek to pilot and evaluate a range of different approaches to encourage healthy living.

Food: Salt

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue guidance to sub-groups of the population that may experience adverse consequences from restricted sodium consumption, with particular reference to pregnant women, the elderly and those who take regular strenuous exercise. [206583]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2003, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) published its report, 'Salt and Health', and recommended that the average daily intake of salt by all adults should be reduced to six grams per day. SACN found no evidence to suggest that such a reduction in salt intake would have adverse effects on any particular group in the population including pregnant women, the elderly and those who are exposed to conditions that cause extreme sweating. We are not aware of any substantive evidence published since the SACN report to suggest any adverse effects on reducing salt intake to these sub-groups. Copies of the SACN report are available in the Library.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of hospital beds in England were in single rooms at the latest date for which figures are available. [203402]

Mr. Bradshaw: For the existing health care estate in England, the latest figures show that the proportion of available beds that are in single rooms has risen from 22.6 per cent. in 2002-03 to 27.9 per cent. in 2006-07.

For new hospital developments, the Department's guidance is that the proportion of single rooms should aim to be 50 per cent., but should not fall below 20 per cent. and must be higher than the facilities they are replacing. Each trust makes an informed choice regarding the appropriate percentage of single bed provision based on practical considerations such as site restrictions, affordability as well as clinical and operational limitations. The policy and design guidance for the provision of single rooms in mental health accommodation is 100 per cent.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department last met (i) stem cell and embryo scientists and (ii) medical researchers to discuss matters included in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. [203449]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, last met scientists and medical researchers formally to discuss the Bill on 12 March 2008. I last met scientists and medical researchers formally on 29 April 2008.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that contracts which primary care trusts, NHS trusts and foundation trusts have with private sector providers of health and social care allow members of local involvement networks to enter the premises of providers to monitor the quality of the work they provide under such contracts. [206242]

Ann Keen: On 1 April 2008 we issued Directions to organisations commissioning health and social care services. Under these Directions those organisations must ensure that new contracts with independent providers allow for authorised representatives of local involvement networks (LINks) to enter and view, and observe the carrying on of activities in, premises which are owned or controlled by the independent provider. The Directions entitled: "Local Involvement Networks—Briefing for independent providers", have been placed in the Library and are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083837

The Directions do not apply to national health service foundation trusts (FTs). The standard NHS contract for acute services contains provisions to ensure that new NHS FTs or those whose existing contracts have expired comply, in their role as providers, with all reasonable requests from LINks either to enter and view services or to provide information.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements there are for local involvement network (LINk) members to be provided with legal indemnity by his Department when they undertake activities on behalf of a LINk. [206243]

Ann Keen: There are no central arrangements to provide indemnity for those involved in local involvement networks. This is a matter to be determined locally.

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make provision for a financial loss allowance for members of local involvement networks; [206244]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure local involvement network (LINk) members are paid expenses by the host organisation when they undertake activities on behalf of a LINk. [206458]

Ann Keen: It is for each local involvement network (LINk) to determine its own policy regarding payment and reimbursement, including the payment of allowances and expenses. We have reminded LINks, and host organisations, that the Department's "Reward and Recognition: The principles and practice of service user payment and reimbursement in health and social care" document provides a useful guide on these matters. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether budgets for local involvement networks will be increased to reflect the additional responsibilities they have compared with patients' forums. [206245]

Ann Keen: Local involvement networks operate in different ways and are funded differently from the way patients' forums operated and were funded and the methods are not comparable. The amounts provided to local authorities (LAs) have been worked out according to the needs of each LA area. We have no plans to review the funding allocations.

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of funding local involvement networks to help establish networks to monitor *(a)* cancer, *(b)* mental health, *(c)* ambulance and *(d)* other services commissioned regionally and nationally. [206247]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 96W.

NHS: Questionnaires

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 771-3W, on the NHS: questionnaires, what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take as a result of the findings of each survey. [206029]

Mr. Bradshaw: Pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 771-3W, the Department does not collect, centrally, information on surveys it commissions. To identify individual surveys, in order to provide information in the format requested would attract disproportionate cost.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W, on working hours, when the Sheffield research will be published. [205860]

Ann Keen: The independent research on the impact of the European Working Time Directive on medical training by Sheffield university will be published in the summer.

Obesity: Surgery

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients had gastric bypass surgery in each hospital trust in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [206079]

Dawn Primarolo: The information has been placed in the Library. The table gives the number of finished consultant episodes for 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Palliative Care

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of all paid-for prescriptions which were for a long-term condition in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by condition. [206072]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not held in the format requested.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with long-term conditions aged between 16 and 60 years. [206073]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number of people with long-term conditions aged between 16 and 60.

Pathology

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many reviews of histopathology services were conducted in each strategic health authority in each of the last three years; [206074]

(2) how many histopathology samples were reviewed by NHS trusts following concerns about discrepancies in histopathology laboratories in each of the last three years. [206075]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not routinely collect information centrally about reviews of histopathology services or the number of histopathology samples reviewed by national health service trusts.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients have been affected by a Choose and Book system error since the system's inception; [205570]

(2) how many times unique reference numbers for Choose and Book have been transposed between patients since the system's inception. [205573]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are aware of only one choose and book system error that has affected patients. Out of 8.5 million bookings made, the error is known to have affected 272 bookings, between 11 April 2008 and 24 April 2008 through the transposition of unique reference numbers.

The affected cases were quickly identified and action was taken to minimise any potential impact for patients. All hospitals and patients were contacted where the possibility had arisen of notification of incorrect appointments resulting from the error. In many cases it was established that no adverse effect on patients had occurred and at no time was patient confidentiality compromised.

The supplier made corrections to the system and no recurrence of the problem has been experienced since 24 April 2008. While no further recurrence is expected in future, an automated process has been put in place to identify the problem immediately if that should happen.

Pharmacy: General Practitioners

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the safety, efficiency and cost effectiveness implications of the plans to cease dispensing by doctors. [206326]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to cease dispensing by doctors. Dispensing doctors play a pivotal role in ensuring continued access to pharmaceutical services and providing patient care for those who need it.

The White Paper "Pharmacy in England; Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future", looks at aligning the future provision of pharmaceutical services and sets out proposals to look at the market entry criteria for doctors and pharmacists—but no decision has yet been taken on the criteria to be used in future for patients to receive pharmaceutical services from their general practitioner. Copies of the White Paper are available in the Library.

A consultation paper will be launched in late summer after the publication of the primary and community care strategy. We will consider fully the impact of any proposals on patients, the national health service and contractors.

Prescriptions: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1810-11W, on prescriptions: ICT, what the reasons are for the difference between the number of electronic prescriptions service (EPS) prescription messages generated by GPs and the number of EPS dispense notification messages sent by pharmacies. [205571]

Mr. Bradshaw: During the transition from paper based prescriptions to electronic prescriptions, we are committed to ensuring that patients have the choice of going to any community pharmacy or other dispensing contractor to get their prescriptions whether they have the appropriate information technology capability or not. This results in a larger number of electronic prescription messages being issued than are dispensed.

Prostate Cancer

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1226-32W, on prostate cancer, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the trend in the number of diagnoses of prostate cancer since 1997. [206403]

Ann Keen: The main reason for the increase in the number of prostate cancers diagnosed is the introduction of the Prostate Specific Antigen test in the early 1990s, although this increase was on top of an existing underlying trend of more cases.

Alongside this increase in prostate cancers diagnosed the mortality rate from prostate cancer has continued to decline in recent years. The five-year survival has increased from 42.4 per cent. between 1986 and 1990, to 74.4 per cent. between 1999 and 2003.

Prostate Cancer: Screening

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects Government-funded trials for prostate cancer screening to report; and if he will make a statement. [206398]

Ann Keen: The Government are not currently funding trials for prostate cancer screening. There is currently insufficient evidence from any country in the world to show that screening would reduce deaths from prostate cancer. The Government are committed to introducing a national screening programme for prostate cancer if and when screening and treatment techniques are sufficiently well developed. The UK National Screening Committee keeps screening for prostate cancer under review, and research under way in both Europe and the United States of America is being monitored.

The Department is supporting the development of screening technology for prostate cancer by having a comprehensive research strategy into all aspects of prostate cancer. We are jointly with other National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) members funding two NCRI Prostate Cancer Research Collaboratives, and the Department is funding half of the total £7.4 million cost. In addition, the Department is funding a £20 million trial of treatments for prostate specific antigen screen-detected early prostate cancer, the ProtecT trial and supporting a comparison trial to run alongside it.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the additional revenue from capital gains tax if it were levied on companies at the same rate as corporation tax in 2008-09. [206193]

Jane Kennedy: No additional revenues would be raised. Companies are not subject to capital gains tax, instead any chargeable gains accruing to them are charged to corporation tax as part of their total profits. Consequently companies' chargeable gains are already taxed at the relevant rate of corporation tax for 2008-09.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the additional revenue from capital gains tax if it were levied on individuals at the basic rate of income tax in 2008-09. [206194]

Jane Kennedy: A reform of this kind would result in a large behavioural response and such estimates are susceptible to a wide margin of error. A broad estimate of the eventual steady state impact, taking account of the likely taxpayer response to such a change, is additional receipts in the order of £400 million a year by comparison with the current capital gains tax regime.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notification changes have been made to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax List with a code of CL26 (correction of inaccuracy) in the last 12 months. [203131]

Jane Kennedy: Of the 22.5 million entries in the council tax valuation lists in England, 56,122 (0.25 per cent.) were reviewed and cleared in 2007-08 using code CL26.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultants were contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract. [206212]

Angela Eagle: Information on consultants used to conduct public participation activities is contained within the total external consultancy figures and cannot be separately identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

Families: Clwyd

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to help working families in the Vale of Clwyd since 1997. [205755]

Jane Kennedy: Since 1997 the Government have introduced a number of policies to make work pay and help working families.

The working tax credit (WTC) provides financial support on top of earnings, and together with the national minimum wage (NMW) helps to improve work incentives and relieve in-work poverty. The child care element of WTC improves the financial rewards for parents from work, and gives them the financial flexibility to choose the child care arrangements that are most appropriate for their families. It offers low-to-moderate-income families support with up to 80 per cent. of child care costs up to a limit of £300 per week for two or more children. In addition, families in work are eligible for the child tax credit. Taken together, these policies mean that form October 2008, the guaranteed minimum income for a family with one child working full-time will be £292 a week.

The Government are committed to helping parents balance work and family life, including introducing enhanced maternity, paternity and adoption leave, the right for parents to request flexible working.

The Government are also trialing new ways of ensuring that work pays. From October 2008 the Government will pilot a new better off in work credit which will reassure long-term recipients of incapacity benefit (ESA on its introduction), income support or jobseeker's allowance that if they enter full-time work they will have an in work income, including any in work benefits or tax credits, of at least £25 per week more than they receive from their out of work benefits.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of immigration on *(a)* gross domestic product and *(b)* per capita gross domestic product since 1997. [205788]

Angela Eagle: Migration has added around 0.5 per cent. per annum to the working age population between 1997 and 2006, stimulating growth in total output. Average output growth over this period was 2.7 per cent. and migration is estimated to have contributed around 15-20 per cent. of this.

The direct impact of immigration on gross domestic product per capita has been small but broadly positive.

The impact of immigration on the economy is discussed in more detail in a cross-departmental report[1] in sections 3.3 and 3.4.

[1] Home Office and Department of Work and Pensions (2007). The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Immigration: A Cross-Departmental Submission to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/economic-impact-of-immigration.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projection the Government Actuary's Department has made of changes in population over 50 years per million immigrants; and if he will make a statement. [206613]

Angela Eagle: The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has made no such projection since responsibility for the production of the national population projections transferred from GAD to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 31 January 2006. This transfer was recommended by an independent review of the actuarial profession and of GAD conducted by Sir Derek Morris. The latest set of population projections produced by ONS—and the first since the transfer of responsibility took place—was published on 23 October 2007.

(http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pproj1007.pdf).

Income Tax: Crewe

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Crewe and Nantwich constituency paid only the 10 pence rate of income tax in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [205194]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 May 2008]:* The estimated number of taxpayers in each Government office region paying tax only at the starting rate of income tax for 2007-08 is shown in Table 2.2 'Number of individual income taxpayers by country and region', which is available from HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Reliable information on the number of taxpayers who pay income tax at the 10p starting rate for geographic areas below country and region are not available but information on the total number of taxpayers in each parliamentary constituency is shown in Table T3.15. These tables can be found at the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

These estimates are based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2005-06).

The removal of the 10p rate from 2008-09 is part of a package of reforms announced in Budget 2007 and should not be looked at in isolation. Individuals previously paying tax only at the starting rate of income tax could be better off through other measures, for example, higher age related personal allowances or increased tax credits. Individuals paying tax at the starting rate on their savings will not be affected as this rate will be replaced by a new starting rate for savings income.

The Chancellor announced on 13 May an increase in the individual personal tax allowance by £600 to £6,035 for this financial year, benefiting all basic-rate taxpayers under 65 and removing 600,000 low-income individuals from tax. Around 22 million basic-rate taxpayers will gain an additional £120 this year, fully compensating 80 per cent. of households that lose from the Budget 2007 reforms, with the remainder seeing their loss at least halved. The Government will set out their plans for future years in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Income Tax: Overpayments

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funds arising from the overpayments of income tax on the part of pension funds HM Customs and Revenue held at the latest date for which figures are available. [200396]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* In 2007-08 HMRC repaid a total of £2.2 billion to registered pension schemes. This was in respect of tax relief at source relating to contributions made to pension schemes and certain tax on investment income received by schemes. Such repayments are claimed routinely by pension scheme trustees and administrators and are made to pension schemes on a regular basis by HMRC.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he approved the increase in personal allowance as announced on 13 May 2008. [206182]

Jane Kennedy: In the letter from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Chairman of the Treasury Committee of 23 April, the Chancellor said he would set out our proposals to help those who lost out as a result of the withdrawal of the 10p starting rate of tax for the longer term in the pre-Budget report later this year. He also said that he would not wait unnecessarily until November before setting out how we intended to proceed. His announcement on 13 May is fully consistent with these commitments.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford Local Authority area who have been adversely affected by the abolition of the 10 pence income tax rate. [206063]

Jane Kennedy: Budget 2007 announced a package of reforms from which over 16 million households gained and over five million households lost out. It is not possible to provide comparable figures of those who have been affected by the withdrawal of the 10 pence starting rate for parliamentary constituency or local authority areas.

The Chancellor announced income tax measures on 13 May to provide financial support in 2008-09 for all basic rate taxpaying families, fully compensating 80 per cent. of households adversely affected by the withdrawal of the 10 pence starting rate and with the remainder seeing their loss at least halved.

The Chancellor will set out proposals to help those who lost out as a result of the withdrawal of the 10 pence starting rate of tax for the longer term in the Pre-Budget Report.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the 10 pence income tax band was first announced or described by his Department as an interim or transitional measure; and if he will make a statement. [206181]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 13 May 2008.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer the letter to him dated 6 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs Eileen Flint. [201119]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor has replied to my right hon. Friend.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 29 February 2008, on income tax rates for those on low incomes (PO reference: 1/54749/2008). [202162]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member on the 14 May.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 18 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms M. George. [206966]

Jane Kennedy: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs E. Flint. [206967]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor has replied to the right hon. Member.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the average stamp duty paid by a first-time buyer in *(a)* Reading, *(b)* England and *(c)* the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available. [204997]

Kitty Ussher: No estimate has been made of the stamp duty land tax paid by first time buyers.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax avoidance schemes have been disclosed to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC); and how many of those have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected by HMRC. [206196]

Jane Kennedy: The numbers of disclosures received under both the direct and indirect tax disclosure regimes are published on the HMRC internet every six months. The latest statistics showing figures to 31 March 2008 can be accessed using the following link:-

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/avoidance/avoidance-disclosure-statistics.htm

The regime is a tool which is intended to provide HMRC with early information in order to identify and counteract the use of avoidance schemes so that the Government can legislate quickly to close any loopholes. The regime requires avoidance promoters to provide HMRC with details of schemes that fall within certain descriptions within five days of them being made available or implemented. It does not incorporate any acceptance or rejection type process. A disclosure would only be declined if it were made in error, for example if it concerned matters outside the scope of the disclosure regime.

Taxation: Ex-servicemen

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of former service personnel receiving a Ministry of Defence pension had income below the ceiling of the 10 pence income tax band in 2007-08. [203457]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Taxation: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people with a BT postcode living in Northern Ireland missed the 31 January deadline for filing their tax returns. [204663]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* 24,572 people with a BT postcode, required to complete a 2006-07 self assessment tax return, missed the 31 January 2008 filing deadline.

Valuation Office: Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts were awarded by *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency to consultancy firms in the last 12 months. [203030]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

(a) Contracts have been awarded to four separate consultancies

(b) None.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many completed *(a)* TC600, *(b)* MA1 and *(c)* CH2 forms his Department has (i) received and processed and (ii) lost in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [199005]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows.

(i) Numbers of forms received and processed are shown in the following table.

(ii) Information on the numbers of forms lost is not available.

	TC600	*CH2*	*MA1*
2003-04	2,500,000	820,000	70,000
2004-05	1,500,000	940,000	71,000
2005-06	1,500,000	1,000,000	73,000
2006-07	1,200,000	900,000	75,000
2007-08	1,200,000	875,000	86,000

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what costs have been incurred by HM Revenue and Customs as a consequence of tax credit cases under investigation by the Financial Ombudsman in each of the last three years. [206868]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs are not aware that the Financial Ombudsman Service has investigated any tax credits cases.

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) in how many cases HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor *(a)* imposed a penalty under section 31 of the Tax Credits Act 2003 for making an incorrect statement or declaration or supplying incorrect information or evidence and *(b)* imposed a penalty under section 32(3) of the Tax Credits Act 2002 for failing to notify a specified change of circumstances in each year since 2003; [194502]

(2) in how many cases HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor applied to the Appeals Service under section 32(1) and (2) of, and Schedule 2 to, the Tax Credits Act 2002 for a summons against an individual on evidence of failing to comply with a requirement regarding a final notice in each year since April 2003. [194503]

Jane Kennedy: A breakdown between penalties imposed under section 31 and section 32(3) is not available.

The following table shows the total number of penalties imposed under sections 31 and 32(3) of the Tax Credits Act 2002. No penalties were charged in 2003-04.

	Number of cases
2004-05	1,114
2005-06	2,241
2006-07	1,365
2007-08 to 29 February 2008	955

HMRC made 12 applications in 2005-06 for a summons against an individual under section 32(1) and (2) of, and schedule 2 to, the Tax Credits Act 2002. 16 applications were made in 2006-07 and five in 2007-08. No such applications were made in 2003-04 or 2004-05.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people receiving tax credits were involved in disputes relating to overpayments of benefit in each year since their inception; and how many of these cases were resolved *(a)* in favour and *(b)* not in favour of the claimant. [202703]

Jane Kennedy: In 2007-08, around 185,000 households disputed an overpayment and HM Revenue and Customs wrote off tax credits overpayments in part or in full for around 6,000 households. Information on the number of households disputing an overpayment is not available before August 2006 but for information relating to the number of disputes received and cases written off for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 March 2008, *Official Report,* columns 901-02W.

The figures for overpayments written off do not directly relate to those disputes that were received in the same period. TCO does not separately record whether an overpayment is written off in part or in full.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on recovering tax credit overpayments when the individual has no means to repay the debt. [205999]

Jane Kennedy: When seeking to recover any of the debts for which it is responsible, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has a duty to strike a balance between a customer's ability to pay and its responsibility to recover monies properly owing to the Exchequer.

HMRC's policy on the recovery of tax credits overpayments is set out in its Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?" available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/forms-leaflets.htm

This makes it clear that HMRC will take into account a customer's ability to pay to ensure that vulnerable customers do not experience financial hardship.

Where immediate, full payment is likely to cause the customer financial hardship, HMRC will normally reach an agreement to recover the debt over a longer period, usually 12 months. Where it is clear that a customer will still not be able to repay through such a staged arrangement, because they have little disposable income or assets, HMRC will normally suspend recovery but review the customer's circumstances at a later date to see if it would be possible to restart recovery because their financial circumstances have improved. Where it seems that a customer's financial circumstances are unlikely to change, for example because they are on long-term benefit or are seriously ill, HMRC will remit the debt.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be for *(a)* enforcement and *(b)* encouraging voluntary arrangements in 2008-09. [206201]

Mr. Plaskitt: Detailed cost planning for the commission is still under development, cost estimates are subject to change, and it is therefore not possible to provide the requested information at this time.

Subject to passage of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill it will be for the Commission to determine the budget for enforcement and encouraging voluntary arrangements once it is established.

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much unpaid maintenance was owed by the Child Support Agency to parents with care in each quarter since 2005; how much has been written off in each year since 2005 as uncollectable; and if he will make a statement. [200818]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 May 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much unpaid maintenance was owed by the Child Support Agency to parents with care in each quarter since 2005; how much has been written off in each year since 2005 as uncollectable; and if he will make a statement. [200818]

Unpaid child maintenance is not owed by the Child Support Agency but by those parents who have failed to meet their responsibilities towards their children.

The Agency has increased the amount of child maintenance including arrears collected or arranged over the first two years of the Operational Improvement Plan, collecting a record-breaking £1 billion in the year to March 2008. In addition internal Agency figures show that the rate at which child maintenance debt has been growing continues to reduce. In the year to March 2008 child maintenance debt grew at a rate of £10 million a month, which is less than half the rate at which debt was growing in the year to March 2006.

The amount of unpaid child maintenance owed at the end of each quarter for the period March 2005 to March 2008 is set out in the attached Table 1 including Agency internal figures for the year ending March 2008. This represents the total owed by parents, which has accrued over the 15 years of the Child Support Agency's operation.

The Agency does not have the power to write off debt and has never done so. The Agency does, however, undertake an annual Debt Analysis Exercise based on a sample of cases, to estimate the amount of debt assessed as collectable, and that which is deemed either possibly, or probably uncollectable. The results of this annual sample exercise are subject to review by the National Audit Office as part of their audit of the Agency's accounts, therefore the estimate for the year ending March 2008 will be published with the Agency's 2008 Annual Report and Accounts later this year. The latest annual estimate of the collectability of unpaid child maintenance information is also available in Table 22a of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics, and has been set out in the attached Table 2 for ease.

It should be noted that classing a debt as possibly or probably uncollectable does not mean the Agency will not take action in the future to collect any outstanding money. The Agency will continue to make every effort to ensure parents fulfil their financial responsibility to their children, to provide a stable foundation on which the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission can build.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Gross child maintenance debt (by quarter)

Month	*Total gross debt (£ billion)*
March 2005	3.3
June 2005	3.3
September 2005	3.4
December 2005	3.4
March 2006	3.5
June 2006	3.6
September 2006	3.6
December 2006	3.6
March 2007	3.7
June 2007	3.7
September 2007	3.7
December 2007	3.8
March 2008	[1]3.8

[1] Figures for March 2008, are internal Agency figures and are subject to review following National Audit Office scrutiny on the agency accounts for 2007-08.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to nearest £0.1 billion.
2. Latest available data is March 2007.

Table 2: Gross child maintenance debt (debt analysis exercise)

	April to March each year (£ billion)		
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total gross debt outstanding at year end	3.3	3.5	3.7
Of which:			
Possibly uncollectable	n/a	0.2	0.1
Probably uncollectable	2.0	1.9	2.1
Collectable	1.3	1.4	1.5

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion.
2. "Possibly Uncollectable" debt refers to amounts outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed some uncertainty over whether it will be collected. The amounts are considered doubtful where, for example, payments have been infrequent or it has not been possible to establish an arrears agreement or impose a deduction of earning order.
3. "Probably Uncollectable" debt refers to the amount outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed is likely to be very difficult to collect due, for example, to the lack of contact with, or the personal circumstance of, the non-resident parent. In many of these cases the Agency has suspended recovery action until such time as the individual's circumstances change.
4. "Collectable" debt refers to the amount outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed is likely to be collected. This takes into account factors such as regular contact with the non-resident parent, where regular payments are being made or an arrears agreement has been set up.
5. From 2005-06 a provision has been included in the annual accounts to reflect the fact that the Agency may not collect an element of the possibly uncollectable debt, the accounts for 2004-05 have been restated on this basis, please refer to 2005-06 annual report and accounts. Therefore the possibly uncollectable figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are based upon the provision in the accounts only, leading to an increase in collectable debt in these years.
6. Figures for the period April 2007 to March 2008 will be published in the Agency's 2008 annual report and accounts.

Council Tax Benefit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received council tax benefit in each Government office region in each year since 1996-97; and what the cost of the benefit was in each year. [205446]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables.

Council tax benefit recipients nationally and by Government office region, as at February each year

	Great Britain	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
1999	5,201,480	318,670	537,460	698,910	336,960	510,540
2000	4,878,290	304,270	700,080	447,530	318,330	484,110
2001	4,662,540	298,090	660,060	426,820	306,790	463,120
2002	4,589,800	291,320	646,330	421,440	292,460	461,460
2003	4,594,510	290,370	642,820	422,440	293,210	460,080
2004	4,684,000	289,400	646,610	429,360	303,180	462,070
2005	4,926,320	294,520	671,620	446,320	320,690	482,830
2006	5,015,060	293,630	682,970	435,290	329,980	487,490
2007	5,096,570	295,620	686,640	461,040	338,270	506,650

	East	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*Scotland*
1999	377,140	701,280	483,810	363,240	276,340	597,130
2000	355,740	635,440	454,810	342,240	267,640	568,090
2001	338,450	610,080	433,700	324,240	263,780	537,410
2002	334,160	610,410	421,590	319,600	260,750	530,290
2003	336,580	625,430	422,860	317,880	256,400	526,450
2004	347,360	646,720	443,020	326,800	261,240	528,240
2005	367,320	704,370	475,080	346,530	272,020	545,030
2006	380,040	719,920	491,230	361,290	278,520	534,720
2007	390,900	728,470	504,020	368,810	282,240	533,920

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in February 1999 to February 2007.

Council tax benefit expenditure in Great Britain

£ million

	Cash terms	*Real terms (2008-09 prices)*
1996-97	2,311	3,147
1997-98	2,395	3,169
1998-99	2,452	3,165
1999-2000	2,511	3,177
2000-01	2,575	3,211
2001-02	2,686	3,272
2002-03	2,834	3,347
2003-04	3,223	3,700
2004-05	3,557	3,973
2005-06	3,774	4,129
2006-07 (estimated)	3,944	4,195

Notes:

1. Figures to 2005-06 are audited out-turn from local authority subsidy claims.
2. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional.
3. Real terms figures are in 2008-09 prices, based on the Budget 2008 GDP deflator.

Source:

DWP Budget 2008 expenditure tables

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199967]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of permanent civil service posts, temporary and agency workers employed by the Department for Work and Pensions for each month since May 2005 are shown in the following table.

	Permanent	*Temporary*[1]	*Agency staff*[2]	*Total*
2005				
May	126,979	4,002	—	130,981
June	126,380	4,243	—	130,623
July	125,776	4,833	—	130,609
August	125,343	4,899	—	130,242
September	124,901	4,833	—	129,734
October	124,579	5,093	—	129,672
November	124,314	5,254	—	129,568
December	123,998	5,372	—	129,370
2006				
January	123,930	5,341	—	129,271
February	122,873	4,991	—	127,864
March	123,713	3,434	—	127,147
April	122,699	3,258	—	125,957
May	122,314	3,180	—	125,494
June	122,179	3,533	—	125,712
July	122,052	4,263	—	126,315
August	121,573	4,408	—	125,981
September	121,502	3,692	—	125,194
October	121,286	3,507	—	124,793
November	121,075	3,441	—	124,516
December	120,617	3,502	—	124,119
2007				
January	120,257	3,562	—	123,819
February	119,624	3,443	—	123,067
March	118,217	2,270	—	120,487
April	119,126	946	—	120,072
May	118,516	955	—	119,471
June	117,948	961	—	118,909
July	117,180	1,669	—	118,849
August	116,113	1,741	—	117,854
September	115,447	1,807	300	117,554
October	115,066	1,739	255	117,060
November	115,014	1,750	284	117,048
December	114,543	1,790	269	116,602
2008				
January	113,951	1,916	312	116,179
February	113,477	1,878	444	115,799
March	112,628	1,344	433	114,405

[1] Based on the Office of National Statistics (ONS) definition, from 1 April 2007 members of staff with a fixed term contract in excess of 12 months are counted as permanent.

[2] Data only available from September 2007.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205846]

Mr. Plaskitt: Consultation forms an integral part of policy-making in my Department and we consult on both an informal and formal basis. However there is no central budget for consultation exercises and activity is funded by each individual policy area or agency operation. I can therefore provide an answer to this question only at disproportionate cost to public funds.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish the latest Households Below Average Income statistics; what the reasons are for the time taken to publish them; and if he will make a statement. [206837]

Mr. Timms: The Households Below Average Income publication will be published in June 2008. The exact date of release will be announced on the National Statistics website at least a fortnight before publication in line with the National Statistics code of practice. Full details of the reasons for the delay in release were given in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's written statement on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS.

Departmental Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what projects sponsored by his Department were subject to Gateway reviews in each of the last four years; what status each project was assigned under such reviews; how much his Department spent on Gateway reviews in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [205870]

Mrs. McGuire: Gateway reports, including the findings and status, are conducted on a confidential basis for Senior Responsible Owners (SRO) and are not therefore, made available.

The information in the table provides a list of the Gateway reviews undertaken on the Department's projects over the last four years:

	Name of review
2004-05	HR IS/IT Modernisation
	Euro Programme
	Health and Safety Executive (HSE)—Corporate Information Project
	Review of Office Services
	Customer Management System
	Civil Partnerships Registration
	Pensions Organisation Project
	Inherited State Earnings-related Pensions System
	State Pension Deferrals
	Resource Management System
	Debt Management Programme
	Universal Banking Programme
	Electronic Registered Files
	Incapacity Benefit Reforms—Extension to Existing Customers
	HR IS/IT Modernisation
	(HR) Service Delivery Model
	Staff Information System
	The Pensions Regulator Programme
	Medical Provision Procurement Project
	Records Storage Project
	HOUSE—Electronic Document Records Management (EDRM)
	Jobcentre Plus Implementation
	Benefit Processing Re-engineering Programme/Watch 3
2005-06	Pensions Transformation Programme (PTP)
	DWP IT Transformation Programme
	Payment Modernisation Programme
	HSE—HR Service Transformation (HRST)
	Corporate Integration Backbone
	Staff Information System—Phase 2
	IT Information Flows in Local Authorities
	Centralisation of Benefit Processing
	New Deal for Disabled People Successor
	Employee Services
	Child Support Reforms Business Transformation
	HSE—Corporate Information Project
	Disability and Carers' Service (DCS) Change Programme
	Provider-Led Pathways To Work
	Electronic Registered Files
	Employee Services
	The Pensions Regulator Programme
	HSE—HRST
	HSE—EDRM
	BPRP/Watch 2
	Universal Banking
	Central Payment System
	HSE—FIT3 Programme
	Employee Services
	Debt Management Programme
	Multi-Functional Server Replacement
	DWP Vehicle Procurement Project
	Jobcentre Plus Implementation
	Centralisation of Benefits Processing
2006-07	DCS Change Programme
	DWP IT Transformation Programme
	Review of Office Services
	HSE—HRST
	Pensions Transformation Programme
	The Pensions Regulator Programme
	Review of Office Services
	HSE—EDRM
	ID Cards
	HR IS/IT Modernisation Programme
	Review of Head Office Estate
	HSE—HRST
	Employment Support Allowance
	Document Repository Service
	Provider-Led Pathways To Work
	Resource Management System

	Name of review
	CSA Operational Improvement Plan
	Review of Office Services
	Contracted Employment Projects (CEPP)
	Central Payments System
2007-08	Review of Head Office Estate
	Child Maintenance Re-design
	Centralisation of Benefit Processing
	HSE—FITS Programme
	Enabling Savings Programme
	Employment Support Allowance
	Document Repository Service
	Provider-Led Pathways to Work
	DWP Change Programme
	Customer Information System r4
	Method of Payment Reform Programme
	Child Maintenance Redesign
	Provider-Led Pathways to Work
	Pensions Transformation Programme
	HSE—How and Where We Work
	DCS Change Programme
	Employment Support Allowance
	The Pensions Regulator
	HSE—Universal Work Recording
	Provider-Led Pathways to Work
	HR IS/IT Modernisation Programme
	Pensions Reform Delivery Programme
	Flexible New Deal
2008-09	Enhanced Transmission Service Enhancements

A key principle of Gateway is that they are cost neutral. However, where there is a shortfall in civil service Gateway reviewers, suitably accredited external resource may be used. While the Department is unable to identify the individual costs for each review undertaken, as this information is not specifically recorded, we have spent the following on Gateway reviews.

	Spend on Gateway™ Reviews (£)
2004-05	192,802.16
2005-06	119,102.58
2006-07	227,198.57
2007-08	130,850.28

The Secretary of State is fully supportive of the Gateway Review Process, which is applied to all major programmes and projects within the Department. The Process is firmly embedded into the Department's governance regime and Gateway reviews are used as an integral part of the overall Assurance provision within the Department. Feedback from Senior Responsible Owners (for whom the reports are written) and project teams is that overwhelmingly they are extremely useful in helping the projects deliver their intended outcomes.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205174]

Mrs. McGuire: In 2007-08 the Department for Work and Pensions spent £1.6 million on telephone interpreting services and £1.8 million on face to face interpreting services.

The Department's contracted spend on translation services in 2007-08 was £40,698, of which £31,535 was translating English into Welsh. No other information is held centrally to provide any further breakdown by language and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199193]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP does not have mechanisms in place to monitor the extent to which the Department's internal and external correspondence and publications are distributed electronically.

However it is the Department's policy to use electronic formats as the principal route for the distribution of internal communications and a range of electronic methods are in place to deliver external correspondence.

Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 42W, on fraud, how many staff in his Department were *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* prosecuted for fraud offences in each year since 2003. [204240]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested. To extract this information from individual records for the period requested would be at a disproportionate cost.

The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. The system did not categorise the reason for dismissal, for example fraud. The system was enhanced from 28 January 2008 to capture categories of dismissals.

Information on numbers prosecuted is not available. However the numbers of staff convicted for fraud since January 2004 are available and shown in the following table.

	Number of staff convicted
January to March 2004	4
April 2004 to March 2005	11
April 2005 to March 2006	10
April 2006 to March 2007	14
April 2007 to December 2007	14

Hazardous Substances

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what restrictions on the retail sale of *(a)* sulphuric acid and *(b)* other highly corrosive substances there are; and if he will make a statement. [205532]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office controls the sale of sulphuric acid, together with other corrosive acids (formic, hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, nitric and phosphoric) under the Poisons Act 1972, included in Part II of the Poisons List. The purpose of the legislation is to allow the sale of commonly-used poisons whilst protecting the individual from their inherent dangers. The sale of Part II poisons are restricted to retail pharmacies and to businesses whose premises have been entered on to local authorities' lists as sellers of poisons (usually hardware stores, garden centres and the like).

The manufacture and sale of certain chemicals, that can be used in the production of illicit drugs, is controlled under EU legislation (Council Regulations (EC) Nos. 273/2004 and 111/2005) and effected through drug precursors regulations administered by the Home Office. Two of the chemicals under such control are sulphuric and hydrochloric acid, both commonly used as solvents in illicit production. Any company manufacturing or trading in either, and in quantities over 100kg a year, must be registered with the Home Office and exports to certain sensitive countries must be authorised.

Additionally, when hazardous chemicals, including sulphuric acid and other corrosive substances are sold, the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 places a requirement on suppliers to package such chemicals safely and label properly so that information is provided on the risks associated with these chemicals.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will exempt lone parents providing full-time home education for their children from the planned requirement that lone parents be actively seeking work to receive income support; [205382]

(2) what support will be available for lone parents providing full-time home education to their children when the requirement for such parents to be actively seeking work to receive income support comes into effect; and if he will make a statement. [205383]

Mr. Timms: Details of the Government's proposed changes to benefit conditionally for lone parents, together with a set of draft regulations, were presented to the Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) on 7 May 2008. The Committee will shortly commence a public consultation exercise seeking views on the proposals from interested organisations before formally responding to the Secretary of State. After considering the SSAC report, the Government will respond on the arrangements for lone parents, including those who educate their children at home.

In the documentation provided to SSAC, the Government outlined their proposals on lone parents who educate their children at home. While recognising that lone parents can choose to do so, it is not the purpose of income support to fund them to educate their children at home. Therefore, the Government consider that they should be required to look for paid work when their youngest child reaches the relevant threshold age.

Lone parents who educate their children at home and who apply for jobseeker's allowance will need to fit in their home education activities around their obligations to look for work. Unlike lone parents who send their children to school, lone parents who choose to educate their children at home do not have to observe school hours, days or terms and may have greater flexibility to fit paid work around their children's education.

They may, however, need to find alternative care for their children when they undertake work related activities or take up a job. The draft regulations presented to SSAC also include an amendment to allow Jobcentre Plus advisers additional discretion so that a lone parent claiming or receiving jobseeker's allowance will not be penalised if they cannot access appropriate and affordable child care.

Pension Service: Standards

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of customer service performance at the Swansea Pension Service Centre; and if he will make a statement. [201212]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table:

The year to date customer service performance at Swansea Pension Centre at March 2008

	Swansea Pension Centre YTD performance at March 2008	*Pension service targets*
State Pension applications processed in 60 days	96 per cent.	95 per cent.
State Pension changes processed in 15 days	94 per cent.	95 per cent.
Pension Credit applications average actual clearance time	15 days	15 days
Pension Credit changes average actual clearance time	3.5 days	4 days

Note:
These are the performance levels against the agreed Pension Service targets.
Source:
Respond system.

Pension Service: Swansea

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on *(a)* sickness, *(b)* overtime and *(c)* other staff absence at the Swansea Pension Service Centre in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201213]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following tables.

Days lost to sickness at Swansea Pension Centre from 2005

	Average working days lost per employee	*Actual number of working days lost*
2005	6.7	3,545
2006	11.4	4,260
2007	12.5	4,875
2008	13.1	7,440

Notes:

1. All years are from 1 January to 31 December except 2008 which is the information from 1 January to 31 March.
2. The Average Working Days Lost target is calculated as follows: Working Days lost divided by working days available x 225.
3. As of 2007-08 DWP has adopted the ONS definition and the reported figure excludes unpaid employees.

Source:

BI Portal information.

Total cost of overtime at Swansea Pension Centre since 2005

	Cost (£)	*Percentage of total salary costs*
2005-06	157,000	1.34
2006-07	371,000	2.94
2007-08	511,000	4.19

Notes:

1. All years are from 1 April to 31 March.
2. Costs figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds. Current information on other staff absence at Swansea Pension Centre on 24 April 2008.

Source:

Information supplied by Resource Support Team in Swansea.

Current information on other staff absence at Swansea Pension Centre on 24 April 2008

	Percentage
Attendance	16
Authorised absence	17
Unauthorised absence	67

Notes:

1. This is the staffing information on 24 April (Industrial Action Day).
2. Authorised Leave includes Annual Leave, Carers Leave, Maternity Leave.

Source:

Swansea Pension Centre return to Business Continuity.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many principal applicant cases were allocated to case resolution teams (CRT) in her Department, broken down by *(a)* CRT (S), *(b)* CRT (M) and *(c)* CRT (L) in the years (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [200897]

Mr. Byrne: The work to clear the backlog of asylum cases was announced in July 2006. Work started on selected cases in November 2006 and the Case Resolution Directorate was created on 1 April 2007, tasked with managing the work. Around 5,500 principal applicant cases were allocated tc each case owning team in December 2007.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency provided an update on progress on clearing the backlog of older cases to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 17 December 2007 and has given an undertaking to update Parliament every six months on further progress.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of principal applicant cases allocated to case resolution teams (CRT) in her Department were *(a)* resolved within the year and *(b)* carried over to the following year, broken down by (i) CRT (S), (ii) CRT (M) and (iii) CRT (L) in the years (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05, (C) 2005-06, (D) 2006-07 and (E) 2007-08. [200898]

Mr. Byrne: The work to clear the backlog of asylum cases was announced in July 2006.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency provided an update on progress on clearing the backlog of older cases to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 17 December 2007 and has given an undertaking to update Parliament every six months on further progress.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many principal applicant cases resolved in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08 were given (i) exceptional leave to remain and (ii) indefinite leave to remain, broken down by (A) case resolution team (S), (B) case resolution team (M) and (C) case resolution team (L). [200899]

Mr. Byrne: The work to clear the backlog of older asylum cases was announced in July 2006.

To provide the information requested would incur disproportionate cost as we do not routinely collect this information.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency provided an update on progress to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 17 December 2007 and has given an undertaking to update Parliament every six months on further progress.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the progress of the asylum claim of Faith Dziruni of Downswood, Maidstone, Kent. [205157]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* I provided details on this case in my letter to the hon. Member on 21 June 2007.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in introducing new protocols for judicial review in failed asylum cases. [205270]

Mr. Byrne: In March 2007 we introduced a change to judicial review policy in agreement with the courts. This change meant that claimants have 72 hours to lodge a JR where removal directions are set but we are no longer required to defer removals simply on the threat of judicial review; claimants must also lodge full grounds of challenge. As part of this we have also agreed an expedited process for 25 cases per week that are considered abusive or without merit.

We continue to look for ways to improve processes and will present fresh proposals for reform shortly.

Children: Protection

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of suspected child exploitation were received by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) from Bebo in the last 12 months; and what length of time elapsed between the report being made to Bebo and its receipt by CEOP in each case. [204692]

Mr. Coaker: In the last financial year 290 reports have been received from Bebo by CEOP in this way, out of an overall total of 6,002. For the purposes of answering this question, CEOP dip-sampled, at random, a total of 12 reports for the last year (one for each month). The time delay on receiving reports from when they reached the Bebo SPOC (single point of contact) to being sent to CEOP varied from three days and 14 hours to seven hours with the average working out to one day and 23 hours.

CEOP do not hold any information on the original date that the matter was reported to Bebo, and so cannot comment on any possible time lapse in that part of the process.

Community Policing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which newspapers carried her Department's advertisements relating to neighbourhood policing teams on 31 March 2008; and what the cost to her Department of such advertisements was. [204922]

Mr. Byrne: The advertisements that ran on 31 March 2008 informing the public how to contact their neighbourhood policing teams were placed in 10 newspapers: *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Mail*, *Express*, *Independent*, *Guardian*, *Mirror*, *Sun*, *Star* and the *Western Mail*. The media cost of this advertising was £148,117.00.

Crime: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* domestic burglary, *(b)* vehicle-related thefts, *(c)* crimes of violence against a person, *(d)* crimes involving a gun, knife or sharp instrument, *(e)* vandalism, *(f)* rape and *(g)* homicide were recorded in each parliamentary constituency in the North West in each year since 1997. [205628]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 May 2008]*: Recorded crime statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level.

Although CDRP data is available for selected offences from 1999-2000, the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 means figures before and after that are not directly comparable. To enable direct comparisons to be made, statistics from 2002-03 onwards are provided in the tables placed in the House Library for the following offences: domestic burglary, theft of and from a vehicle, violence against the person, criminal damage, rape and homicide. Statistics are not available for crimes involving guns, knives or sharp instruments at CDRP level.

A look-up table is available that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Departmental Artworks

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what pieces of artwork valued at over £1,000 were *(a)* purchased by her Department and *(b)* transferred to her Department's ownership in each of the last three years; and what the (i) name and (ii) value is of each. [201552]

Mr. Byrne: My Department does not have an annual budget for art. However following the opening of 2 Marsham Street in 2005 £122,000 was spent on the provision of internal art for the new building. This demonstrated the Department's support for UK arts. The developer had direct responsibility for the costs of the external art strategy, the cost of which is included in the combined PFI charge for the building.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by her Department has given rise to responses that have been published by her Department in each year since 2000. [200485]

Mr. Byrne: Since the right of access provided by the Freedom of Information Act came into force on 1 January 2005 the Home Office has received 8,167 requests (to April 2008). As of 21 April 2008 1,019 (12.5 per cent.) of the responses to these have appeared on the Department's disclosure log. This figure includes requests received by the National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform until 9 May 2007 when they ceased to be part of the Home Office upon the creation of the Ministry of Justice. Since the autumn of 2005 the Home Office disclosure log has been maintained on the basis of there being a presumption in favour of publication where information is released. Unfortunately it is not possible to provide an annual breakdown for the publication of FOI responses within the cost limit for PQs.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many freedom of information requests made to her Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201718]

Mr. Byrne: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 87 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 333, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment in her Department there were in each month since May 2005. [199539]

Mr. Byrne: The tables show the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent civil servants, temporary and agency workers in employment in each month since May 2005.

The Home Office and agencies do not recognise the term 'permanent non-Civil Service posts' as all permanent posts are civil service posts.

The Home Office Headquarters and UKBA have been unable to provide 2005 monthly information due to the migration of staff data to a new database at the time. IPS temporary and agency staff numbers prior to July 2006 are unavailable because the central database did not record it at that time. To gather the information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Breakdown of permanent and temporary or agency workers for Home Office HQ, UK Borders Agency, Criminal Records Bureau and Identity and Passport Service

	Home Office HQ			*UKBA*		
	Permanent	*Temporary or agency workers*	*Total*	*Permanent*	*Temporary or agency workers*	*Total*
2005						
May	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
June	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
July	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
August	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
September	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
October	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
November	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006						
January	4,319	525	4,844	n/a	n/a	n/a
February	4,454	538	4,992	n/a	n/a	n/a
March	4,705	558	5,263	n/a	n/a	n/a
April	4,719	540	5,259	n/a	n/a	n/a
May	4,629	550	5,179	n/a	n/a	n/a
June	4,603	874	5,477	n/a	n/a	n/a
July	4,771	591	5,362	15,635	1,979	17,614
August	4,624	572	5,196	15,646	1,899	17,545
September	4,631	552	5,183	15,793	1,870	17,663
October	4,697	563	5,260	16,035	1,955	17,990
November	4,649	569	5,218	16,238	1,973	18,211
December	4,617	574	5,191	16,369	1,961	18,330

Table 1: Breakdown of permanent and temporary or agency workers for Home Office HQ, UK Borders Agency, Criminal Records Bureau and Identity and Passport Service

	Home Office HQ			UKBA		
	Permanent	Temporary or agency workers	Total	Permanent	Temporary or agency workers	Total
2007						
January	4,677	557	5,234	16,538	1,955	18,493
February	4,683	573	5,256	16,714	1,962	18,676
March	4,681	578	5,259	16,926	1,912	18,838
April	4,593	587	5,180	17,116	1,781	18,897
May	2,875	414	3,289	17,373	1,289	18,662
June	2,864	429	3,293	17,424	1,242	18,666
July	2,829	426	3,255	17,558	1,246	18,804
August	2,815	422	3,237	17,596	1,251	18,847
September	2,937	551	3,488	17,606	1,191	18,797
October	2,923	486	3,409	17,581	1,107	18,688
November	2,846	551	3,397	17,550	991	18,541
December	2,833	555	3,388	17,512	950	18,462
2008						
January	2,830	542	3,372	17,439	912	18,351
February	2,825	526	3,351	17,372	886	18,258
March	2,809	477	3,286	17,395	759	18,154

	CRB			IPS		
	Permanent	Temporary or agency workers	Total	Permanent	Temporary or agency workers headcount[1]	Total
2005						
May	415	15	430	2,871	n/a	2,871
June	410	13	423	2,936	n/a	2,936
July	405	13	418	2,917	n/a	2,917
August	412	8	420	2,944	n/a	2,944
September	399	12	411	2,931	n/a	2,931
October	398	10	408	2,916	n/a	2,916
November	393	9	402	2,974	n/a	2,974
December	388	8	396	3,092	n/a	3,092
2006						
January	384	4	388	3,076	n/a	3,076
February	379	4	383	3,136	n/a	3,136
March	373	4	377	3,165	n/a	3,165
April	370	0	370	3,228	n/a	3,228
May	366	4	370	3,226	n/a	3,226
June	366	1	367	3,325	n/a	3,325
July	366	1	367	3,182	247	3,429
August	377	1	378	3,247	253	3,500
September	377	0	377	3,318	243	3,561
October	379	0	379	3,252	233	3,485
November	384	2	386	3,245	238	3,483
December	378	3	381	3,062	244	3,306
2007						
January	371	6	377	3,308	245	3,553
February	380	5	385	3,273	274	3,547
March	378	8	386	3,286	280	3,566
April	375	7	382	3,252	286	3,538
May	376	7	383	3,282	276	3,558
June	389	5	394	3,372	275	3,647
July	403	5	408	3,418	279	3,697
August	413	5	418	3,423	279	3,702
September	416	5	421	3,402	245	3,647

	CRB			IPS		
	Permanent	*Temporary or agency workers*	*Total*	*Permanent*	*Temporary or agency workers headcount*[1]	*Total*
October	416	4	420	3,250	281	3,531
November	430	2	432	3,278	236	3,514
December	431	2	433	3,288	232	3,520
2008						
January	450	3	453	3,528	211	3,739
February	454	3	457	3,532	193	3,725
March	453	6	459	3,530	166	3,696

[1] Headcount for IPS includes all interims and office temps but excludes casual staff and consultants.

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the likely impact on the human rights of migrant domestic workers of ending the domestic migrant worker visa; [206108]

(2) what representations she has received on the future of the domestic migrant worker visa; [206109]

(3) when she plans to make an announcement on the future of the domestic migrant worker visa; [206110]

(4) what assessment her Department has made of the protection afforded to workers covered by the terms of the domestic migrant worker visa. [206111]

Mr. Byrne: We fully understand—and have received representations from several organisations and private individuals on—the protections which are valued in the current route for overseas domestic workers in private households. We said in our consultation paper on visitors, published last December, that we are committed to the protection of those who are exploited when they are in the UK. We are currently conducting research and analysis in respect of the current provisions for overseas domestic workers. In light of the research findings we will consider, with interested parties, how best to achieve protection for any person who is found to be a victim of trafficking, irrespective of how they entered the UK.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 11 March 2008 to the Minister of State on the planning application to convert 203-211 London Road, Staines into an administration and interview centre for the UK Border Agency. [205333]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 9 May 2008.

Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 806W, on official residences, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Savills report, redacting the commercially confidential elements. [204863]

Mr. Byrne: I will be happy to consider doing so when the report is received and has been considered by my officials.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 807W, on official residences, what the valuation of the Government House in Pimlico at its previous valuation was prior to the most recent valuation; and on what date that previous valuation was made. [204865]

Mr. Byrne: The previous valuation was carried out in 2001 and valued the property at £1.8 million.

Political Impartiality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance was given to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in her Department on public communications during the local election purdah period. [204921]

Mr. Byrne: Guidance was published on the Cabinet Office website as it is when a local or general election takes place. The Cabinet Secretary also wrote to Departments to remind them of the guidance.

Religious Hatred

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* religiously aggravated offences and *(b)* offences of religious harassment were recorded in each year since the introduction of such offences, broken down by the religion of the victim; and how many resulted in a (i) charge and (ii) conviction. [206270]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on recorded racially or religiously aggravated offences for some specific categories of offence. However, it is not possible to determine *(a)* whether an offence was of a racial or religious nature or *(b)* the religion of the victim. Similarly, the religion of the victim cannot be identified from the courts proceedings data collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many smoking shelters were built at each of her Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205051]

Mr. Byrne: My Department has no central records of building any smoking shelters at our London buildings in the last five years.

Wouter Basson

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the residency status of Wouter Basson was during the period in which he lived in Berkshire. [205151]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual cases.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in families in each income decile lived in *(a)* two-parent married households and *(b)* two-adult families in (i) Liverpool, (ii) Manchester, (iii) Islington, (iv) Lambeth and (v) Southwark in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [205704]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available below the level of Government office region.

Children in Care: Religion

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of looked-after children had a known religious affiliation, broken down by affiliation, in the latest period for which figures are available. [206107]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number and proportion of looked-after children who had a known religious affiliation, broken down by affiliation is not collected centrally.

Although data is not collected nationally, section 22(5) of the 1989 Children Act places a general duty on local authorities to give due consideration, when making decisions with respect to a child whom they look after, to that child's religious persuasion (among other matters).

Children: Day Care

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) by how much Ofsted's inspection fees for child care establishments will increase by 2010; [205701]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on playgroups and child care establishments of the increase in Ofsted's inspection fees in 2010; and if he will make a statement; [205697]

(3) if he will assess the merits of Ofsted's decision to increase inspection fees for child care establishments in 2010; [205700]

(4) what discussions he has had with child care establishment representative organisations on Ofsted's increase in inspection fees for playgroups in 2010; [205699]

(5) what representations he has received on the increase in Ofsted's inspection fees for child care establishments and playgroups in 2010; [205698]

(6) what the reasons are for the increase in Ofsted's inspection fees for child care establishments and playgroups in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [205696]

Beverley Hughes: The proposals for the levels of fees for the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Ofsted Childcare Register from September 2008 were set out in the consultation—Childcare Act 2006: Future Approach to Fees and Subsidies and the accompanying impact assessment. The consultation exercise ended on 20 February and we received 3,639 written responses. The Government response to the consultation will be published shortly alongside decisions on fee levels for 2008 and the approach to fee setting in the longer term.

As we made clear in the consultation document and impact assessment, our proposals are designed to give effective, locally managed support to the child care sector so that parents and children can have the child care that they need. We proposed that new targeted support arrangements would be administered by local authorities as part of their new child care sufficiency duty. There is no reduction in subsidy under our proposals. The proposal was that we move from a national blanket 100 per cent. subsidy to an arrangement where some funding is available for local decisions about how best to use the money to respond to local market conditions.

During the consultation, we met with many key stakeholders from the child care sector including representative organisations and local authorities, whose views are being taken into account as we analyse the responses to the consultation and make decisions.

Children: Health Services

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Child Health Strategy will be published; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish it. [206105]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The Child Health Strategy will be developed over the summer, and published in the autumn. This extra time allows for more consultation with key stakeholders, parents and young people over the summer, and enables the findings of Lord Darzi's Next Stage Review to be taken into account.

The strategy seeks to clarify how health services, working with schools and other partners, can work better to improve children and young people's health. It will build on the work already delivered through Every Child Matters and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services 10-year plan.

Children's Centres

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres there are in each local authority area; and what funding each local authority has allocated towards children's centres for 2008-09. [206004]

Beverley Hughes: There are currently 2,907 designated Sure Start children's centres across 150 local authorities. The information requested is given in the following table.

Local authority	*Designated children's centres at 15 May2008*	*Children's centre revenue*	*Sure Start local programmes revenue*	*Children's centres capital*
Barking and Dagenham	14	4,116,294	2,342,832	253,256
Barnet	13	3,651,335	666,072	781,046
Barnsley	19	2,955,117	2,769,671	212,695
Bath and North East Somerset	8	1,101,493	738,079	259,916
Bedfordshire	25	4,008,481	518,168	874,465
Bexley	12	2,176,482	625,807	436,785
Birmingham	67	22,342,187	7,755,247	991,341
Blackburn with Darwen	13	2,269,055	3,197,980	634,180
Blackpool	12	1,896,377	1,569,695	542,990
Bolton	15	3,866,451	2,469,333	304,379
Bournemouth	7	1,676,318	456,402	179,498
Bracknell Forest	6	908,259	0	242,472
Bradford	33	9,547,368	4,855,949	753,941
Brent	12	4,217,355	1,649,794	698,769
Brighton and Hove	14	2,780,280	912,804	434,581
Bristol, City of	25	5,269,522	2,225,270	564,075
Bromley	16	2,807,250	576,903	598,850
Buckinghamshire	24	3,988,799	729,078	838,187
Bury	11	2,377,419	564,612	260,705
Calderdale	17	2,492,673	1,657,546	244,575
Cambridgeshire	27	4,975,826	1,055,985	986,999
Camden	16	2,915,977	3,280,348	601,189
Cheshire	31	5,955,561	2,425,663	869,960
Cornwall	36	4,358,663	3,867,661	694,193
Coventry	18	3,966,606	2,380,884	342,131
Croydon	20	4,576,381	456,402	566,787
Cumbria	28	4,851,100	2,674,511	734,062
Darlington	6	1,108,558	1,180,829	182,168
Derby, City of	14	2,976,638	2,076,863	329,012
Derbyshire	42	7,319,880	2,818,688	832,316
Devon	31	5,868,995	2,424,437	1,048,235
Doncaster	23	3,983,438	3,308,858	298,684
Dorset	17	2,770,062	625,807	667,272
Dudley	17	3,598,806	1,773,004	375,217
Durham	43	4,929,374	7,012,019	514,361
Ealing	22	4,940,497	1,081,537	669,649
East Riding of Yorkshire	14	2,743,794	584,087	524,547
East Sussex	28	3,995,304	3,460,552	698,435
Enfield	16	4,606,498	456,402	694,755
Essex	60	11,916,047	2,222,983	2,175,268
Gateshead	15	[illegible],358,985	1,923,565	453T891
Gloucestershire	31	4,903,106	1,063,965	819,722
Greenwich	23	4,898,580	3,034,536	378,553
Hackney	19	6,408,561	4,388,368	592,054
Halton	12	1,146,129	3,185,994	549,189
Hammersmith and Fulham	12	2,517,184	1,586,438	277,060
Hampshire	58	9,761,347	1,300,974	2,086,510
Haringey	17	4,534,989	3,401,879	356,605
Harrow	9	1,929,102	0	585,447
Hartlepool	7	1,162,495	1,719,247	315,695
Havering	10	1,921,697	621,636	382,399
Herefordshire	9	1,604,418	630,607	283,510
Hertfordshire	50	8,541,246	0	2,169,254
Hillingdon	12	2,705,106	614,310	607,969
Hounslow	14	3,699,753	456,402	496,397
Isle of Wight	8	1,310,104	456,402	368,562

Local authority	*Designated children's centres at 15 May2008*	*Children's centre revenue*	*Sure Start local programmes revenue*	*Children's centres capital*
Isles of Scilly	1	30,000	0	0
Islington	16	3,319,558	3,932,802	48,597
Kensington and Chelsea	8	1,666,728	928,953	31,771
Kent	70	12,900,421	5,482,436	2,249,065
Kingston upon Hull, City of	18	2,846,309	4,279,467	212,373
Kingston upon Thames	7	1,174,144	0	351,323
Kirklees	30	6,123,816	3,066,124	614,489
Knowsley	15	2,080,755	2,821,080	314,780
Lambeth	25	6,412,037	3,786,350	324,637
Lancashire	61	11,852,273	10,439,383	1,272,514
Leeds	47	8,434,660	4,203,750	830,964
Leicester, City of	18	5,620,011	4,283,336	430,738
Leicestershire	26	4,440,648	720,078	966,583
Lewisham	15	5,701,962	3,127,983	372,295
Lincolnshire	36	5,895,063	4,040,499	864,863
Liverpool	24	6,788,826	6,345,711	385,613
London, City of	1	140,000	0	0
Luton	19	3,620,240	608,862	457,740
Manchester	34	8,202,080	7,023,657	449,905
Medway	14	2,654,392	491,467	489,297
Merton	9	1,991,912	571,562	427,946
Middlesbrough	12	1,467,722	3,038,998	548,604
Milton Keynes	13	2,724,983	596,603	560,327
Newcastle upon Tyne	16	1,652,922	2,958,414	439,100
Newham	20	2,540,574	3,895,904	620,386
Norfolk	36	7,003,180	5,172,397	545,588
North East Lincolnshire	12	6,727,603	4,726,856	1,102,986
North Lincolnshire	11	1,562,893	1,350,057	248,712
North Somerset	10	1,528,050	607,480	388,899
North Tyneside	11	2,114,610	1,734,089	258,428
North Yorkshire	29	5,158,940	1,242,045	982,738
Northamptonshire	31	6,845,128	2,378,748	1,144,474
Northumberland	23	2,678,420	2,960,948	445,505
Nottingham, City of	16	4,088,902	4,344,129	215,645
Nottinghamshire	50	7,145,723	5,393,408	810,489
Oldham	14	3,777,394	2,751,507	275,799
Oxfordshire	29	5,689,733	456,402	1,185,714
Peterborough, City of	11	2,363,149	1,803,919	347,612
Plymouth, City of	15	2,577,921	2,430,115	305,335
Poole	6	1,018,560	0	269,943
Portsmouth	13	2,100,669	1,221,484	269,579
Reading	10	1,802,346	456,402	308,732
Redbridge	14	2,775,658	469,940	663,414
Redcar and Cleveland	10	1,255,381	2,276,068	571,232
Richmond upon Thames	9	1,487,038	0	453,089
Rochdale	15	2,848,254	3,029,542	194,346
Rotherham	20	3,376,383	1,644,910	231,993
Rutland	1	284,499	0	323,630
Salford	15	3,165,731	2,898,590	212,746
Sandwell	18	5,110,272	4,623,927	298,203
Sefton	16	2,480,716	2,291,335	241,213
Sheffield	31	6,000,844	4,743,604	582,854
Shropshire	14	2,390,049	1,333,236	514,648
Slough	8	2,015,858	456,402	327,173
Solihull	11	1,954,298	456,402	244,100
Somerset	33	4,366,985	1,739,138	732,234
South Gloucestershire	11	1,825,296	0	527,838
South Tyneside	12	1,741,227	2,506,366	26,631
Southampton	12	2,607,160	1,710,903	323,012
Southend on Sea	11	1,868,525	542,366	243,081
Southwark	21	5,518,711	4,543,720	274,783
St. Helens	12	2,028,492	3,027,310	449,400

Local authority	*Designated children's centres at 15 May2008*	*Children's centre revenue*	*Sure Start local programmes revenue*	*Children's centres capital*
Staffordshire	38	6,741,890	2,670,090	986,483
Stockport	15	2,851,594	504,151	350,531
Stockton on Tees	10	1624,756	3,176,064	254,692
Stoke on Trent	13	3,167,797	3,607,154	291,582
Suffolk	35	6,049,179	1,721,597	977,712
Sunderland	17	3,297,851	4,251,511	510,016
Surrey	51	7,771,746	0	2,166,485
Sutton	10	1,799,856	751,581	330,561
Swindon	10	1,913,329	630,898	409,879
Tameside	15	2,912,093	2,426,018	202,859
Telford and Wrekin	13	2,086,804	1,198,982	208,568
Thurrock	10	2,030,520	456,402	321,070
Torbay	7	1,099,404	1,302,306	454,448
Tower Hamlets	21	6,094,142	4,411,051	352,515
Trafford	10	2,380,757	456,402	398,584
Wakefield	20	4,240,009	2,399,269	318,202
Walsall	15	3,993,429	3,086,846	266,481
Waltham Forest	14	4,776,663	2,485,010	444,444
Wandsworth	16	3,703,994	1,240,695	770,725
Warrington	11	1,929,604	1,216,984	272,856
Warwickshire	30	4,413,790	1,054,967	826,800
West Berkshire	6	1,245,575	0	375,566
West Sussex	36	5,559,324	1,348,840	1,279,846
Westminster, City of	12	2,667,426	1,876,935	304,885
Wigan	17	4,446,819	940,360	322,593
Wiltshire	20	4,106,175	0	790,413
Windsor and Maidenhead	6	1,041,716	0	343,092
Wirral	19	3,935,001	2,464,277	346,788
Wokingham	7	1,068,203	0	332,467
Wolverhampton	16	3,320,126	3,185,642	247,672
Worcestershire	25	4,612,927	1,757,680	787,042
York, City of	8	4,358,663	3,867,661	694,198

The Department allocates capital and revenue funding to local authorities for children's centres and former Sure Start local programmes through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant.

Local authorities have responsibility for allocating the resources they receive from the Department to individual children's centres in their area. Funding should be targeted on children's centres serving the most disadvantaged children and families and we have provided guidance to local authorities on directing the greatest resource to where needs are highest.

Females: Employment

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of progress made by Connexions in encouraging girls into non-traditional occupations; and what steps he is taking to ensure further progress. [206157]

Kevin Brennan: This is a deep-rooted and intransigent problem which will require action on a number of fronts and we do not have evidence of the impact of Connexions in isolation. The Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Select Committee report: "Jobs for the Girls: Two Years On", published in February this year, recognised that progress had been made but stressed the importance of careers advice and work experience in achieving our gender equality aims—recommending that more resource should be allocated to this.

We know, therefore that there is much more to be done and we are planning a range of measures which will make clear our expectations on countering gender stereotyping and seek to embed good practice. Connexions services will continue to play a key role. From April of this year local authorities will commission and manage local information, advice and guidance services. The new Quality Standards for young people's information, advice and guidance published last autumn set out our expectations of the services that will be delivered—including emphasising the importance of challenging gender stereotypes and limited career aspirations.

GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many A-level examination scripts were re-marked in 2007. [203222]

Jim Knight: 57,648 A Level examination units were re-marked by the awarding bodies in 2007, out of a total of 6.8 million A Level unit entries.

A re-mark involves a second examiner (who wherever possible was not involved in the original marking) checking the candidate's script to make sure that the authorised mark scheme was applied correctly. It also includes a clerical re-check of the candidate's script to make sure that every question has been marked and that the total number of marks awarded for each paper is correct.

More information is available in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's 2007 report on Enquiries About Results And Appeals which is published online at:

http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/1435.aspx

Pre-School Education: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if his Department will collaborate with local authorities to provide guidance to nurseries on the changes likely to occur to the distribution of the Nursery Education Funding Grant as a result of the provision of free nursery places from 2010. [206623]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 May 2008]*: This Department is currently working with six local authorities who are accelerating progress to implement a single funding formula in April 2009. This project will contribute to good practice guidance. Initial guidance drawn from the experience of these authorities was issued to all local authorities in March and further comprehensive guidance will be distributed this summer. Our expectation is that local authorities will be responsible for developing their own formulas and for issuing guidance to early years providers as part of the implementation process.

Schools: Sports

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve access to sport in schools for blind and partially-sighted children. [206089]

Kevin Brennan: The requirements of the National Curriculum for physical education (PE) are compulsory for all pupils aged five to 16. This includes blind and partially-sighted pupils. The statutory documents for PE set out an inclusion statement which requires schools to adapt their provision so that it is appropriate for the pupils being taught. These enable schools to adapt their PE and sporting provision in order to: set suitable learning challenges; respond to pupils' diverse learning needs; and overcome potential barriers to learning for individual pupils or for groups of pupils.

The PE and School Sport Professional Development Programme includes resources and materials which help teachers to improve the inclusive nature of their PE and sporting provision. The training is free to all schools and, since 2006, over 1,300 resources have been accessed by teachers wanting to improve in this area.

Equity is also imbedded within the national PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, which is creating a five hours of sport offer for all five to 16-year-olds. Blind and partially-sighted children will benefit from the network of 450 multi-sport disability clubs that will be created through this.

Special Educational Needs: Freedom of Information

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools are required to inform parents when their child is identified as having a special educational need; and if he will make a statement. [206041]

Kevin Brennan: Yes. Section 317A of the Education Act 1996, which was inserted by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001, obliges the governing bodies of maintained schools to inform a child's parent that special educational needs provision is being made for him or her because it is considered that the child has special educational needs.

Sure Start Programme: Communication Skills

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of Sure Start centre staff to help children develop language skills. [206090]

Beverley Hughes: From September 2008, all settings offering early years provision will be required to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. This supports all settings to plan play, activities and experiences that can help all children to make progress in their development and learning. It stresses the importance of practitioners being alert to the early signs of needs that could lead to later difficulties and provides a framework to enable early years practitioners to respond quickly and appropriately, involving other agencies as necessary.

Sure Start children's centres play a key role in the positive promotion of children's vocabulary, speech and language development and in identifying speech and language difficulties. We expect staff in children's centres to have a good understanding of how to promote children's language acquisition and identify speech and language difficulties as part of a centre-wide strategy and approach, supported by access to more specialist speech and language services which are jointly commissioned by PCTs and local authorities.

We are working with I CAN, the children's communication charity, to pilot their Early Talk training programme in 200 children's centres. This will train children's centre practitioners, alongside speech and language therapists, to develop their knowledge and understanding of language development, and the ways in which they can help support parents in developing communication skills at home.

Youth Referral Orders

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many youth referral orders have been issued in each region. [203825]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Persons sentenced to reference to a youth justice panel—referral order[1] by criminal justice area, 2006

	Referral orders
Avon and Somerset	656
Bedfordshire	279
Cambridgeshire	375
Cheshire	601
Cleveland	391

Persons sentenced to reference to a youth justice panel—referral order[1] by criminal justice area, 2006

	Referral orders
Cumbria	407
Derbyshire	564
Devon and Cornwall	734
Dorset	380
Durham	469
Essex	1,048
Gloucestershire	321
Greater Manchester	2,259
Gwent	345
Hampshire	1,086
Hertfordshire	562
Humberside	534
Kent	860
Lancashire	1,073
Leicestershire	588
Lincolnshire	135
Merseyside	816
Metropolitan Police	4,261
Norfolk	337
North Wales	445
North Yorkshire	467
Northamptonshire	101
Northumbria	263
Nottinghamshire	649
South Wales	554
South Yorkshire	844
Staffordshire	501
Suffolk	443
Surrey	337
Sussex	816
Thames Valley	1,096
Warwickshire	280
West Mercia	681
West Midlands	1,807
West Yorkshire	1,399
Wiltshire	306
Total England and Wales	30,070

[1] Under Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 SS 16-18, includes extensions of referral orders under S 18 (1c) (6).

Note:

Please be aware that these figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

OLYMPICS

National Lottery: Olympic Games 2012

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of national lottery revenue have been attributable to the Dream Number Olympic Lottery game since that game was launched; and what the proportion was in each quarter of 2007-08. [205756]

Andy Burnham: I have been asked to reply as my Department has responsibility for National Lottery income issues.

As at 29 December 2007, sales attributable to the Dream Number Olympic Lottery Games since the first draw on 15 July 2005 totalled £103,430,390. This constitutes 1.4 per cent. of total national lottery sales.

(a) Dream Number sales for each, available, quarter of 2007-08 and what this constitutes as a percentage of total national lottery sales:

Quarter 1 2007-08 = £14.9 million, 1.3 per cent.

Quarter 2 2007-08 = £14.7 million, 1.2 per cent.

Quarter 3 2007-08 = £14.8 million, 1.2 per cent.

(b) The National Lottery Commission advise that sales figures, for all national lottery games, for the final quarter of 2007-08 will not be available until figures from the lottery operator have been audited. They will be available from 27 May via the 'Sales reporting' section of the National Lottery Commission's website at:

www.natlotcomm.gov.uk.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206804]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2007-08 no DCMS staff undertook apprenticeships or advanced apprenticeships. However, the Royal Parks Agency initiated an apprenticeship scheme for 10 contractors in September 2007 with a further 20 places planned over the next two years. DCMS is also in discussion with Government Skills concerning future participation in the Apprenticeships Pathfinder scheme.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206215]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport contracted the Central Office of Information (COI) to conduct the following public participation activities in the year 2007-08:

Event	*Cost (excl VAT) (£)*
London 2012: Ask the team Birmingham, 25 June 2007	36,478
London 2012: Ask the team London, 11 October 2007	26,962
London 2012: Ask the team Plymouth, 13 March 2008	18,799

No consultants were contracted by DCMS to conduct public participation activities in 2005-06 or 2006-07.

Horserace Totalisator Board: Finance

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budgeted financial balance of the Tote is for the financial year 2008-09. [206812]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is held internally by the Tote and is commercially confidential. Its release could potentially harm the Tote's businesses, and also the outcome of any sale of the Tote on the open market.

Horserace Totalisator Board: Manpower

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the employee headcount of the Tote was on 30 April 2008. [206813]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Tote's headcount at 30 April 2008 was 5,214, comprising 3,934 permanent staff, 1,230 casual staff and 50 fixed term staff.

National Lottery Commission: Conferences

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the National Lottery Commission spent on conferences in each of the last three years. [206725]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been informed by The National Lottery Commission that they spent the following amounts on conferences in each of the last three years:

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	30,212.90

These figures exclude VAT.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204104]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS came into existence in July 2007, but figures are not currently available for financial year 2007-08.

DIUS has continued with arrangements inherited from its predecessor Departments, DfES and DTI.

Spend on carbon offsetting for previous years are covered in the DCSF and BERR returns.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204715]

Mr. Lammy: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007 and are available on the civil service website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp.

The final measurement against the targets will be published this autumn.

The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Department has information about the composition of its staff from two separate databases taken from its predecessor Departments and equality-related information on staff is also collected on different bases and definitions. There are also significant levels of non-declaration in key areas of equality-related information. Preliminary analysis suggests the following staff composition but this needs to be validated as we move on to a common data collection system next year:

> Currently three of 10 members of the DIUS board and three of four non-executive board members are women;
>
> 20 per cent. of the top management posts (Permanent Secretary and Director General posts) are held by women (the Cabinet Office target is 30 per cent.);
>
> 32 per cent. of DIUS senior civil servants are women (the Cabinet Office target for the whole civil service is 37 per cent.); however, of all staff around half are women;
>
> Where ethnic origin has been declared, some 6 per cent. of the total employee population are from a black and ethnic minority (BME) background. This proportion exceeds the Cabinet Office target (4 per cent.) for the work force as a whole;
>
> With the same caveat about the limitations of available information, 1 per cent. of the SCS are from a black and ethnic minority background (Cabinet Office target is 4 per cent.);
>
> Where status is known, disabled people form 8 per cent. of the total employee population, which exceeds the Cabinet Office target (of 3.2 per cent.).

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203849]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS will publish in due course, an annual list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in the Department during the course of the previous financial year.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205832]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206217]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS has used the following contractors, consultants and companies for public participation activities:

Consultancy/ Contractors	*Purpose*	*Cost*
Survey Monkey	Higher Level Skills on-line consultation (Also used for internal surveys)	One year licence of $200
EZ Media	Developing websites to support public consultations on ESOL and Information Adult Learning.	£8,695.00
Dialogue by Design	Development of Innovation Nation on-line consultation	£18,741.25

Foetal Tissue: Research

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research on applications of umbilical cord blood his Department and its predecessors have *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* funded in the last five years. [206009]

Ian Pearson: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is aware of the potential benefits of umbilical cord blood for research. MRC funds two major centres of excellence with interests in this area: the MRC Molecular Haematology Unit in Oxford; and the new MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine in Edinburgh—and part of their research is considering the research possibilities around the use of umbilical cord blood.

In addition, MRC has in the past provided grant funding for research in this area, although the potential utility of cord blood for research outside of the immediate transplantation field has only recently been recognised.

MRC is currently in discussion with the Wellcome Trust and the Anthony Nolan Trust with regard to the feasibility and potential benefits of setting up a national cord blood bank for research.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the Cord Blood Review. [206010]

Ian Pearson: I have not had a discussion with the Secretary of State for Health on the Cord Blood Review, however the Medical Research Council (MRC) is aware of the rationale behind the Department of Health's Cord Blood Review and will be represented at further discussions with the Department later this month.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205149]

Mr. Lammy: None.

Measurement: Wines

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department issues on the sizes of wine glasses used by wine-selling on-trade establishments; and if he will make a statement. [206574]

Ian Pearson: Neither the Department nor the National Weights and Measures Laboratory has issued guidance to business on this issue. However, advice on all aspects of compliance with weights and measures legislation is available to business from local trading standards departments.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether students eligible for the exemption for foundation degrees in the new funding criteria for equivalent or lower qualification students will continue to be eligible for the exemption should they continue to a bachelor's degree. [198618]

Bill Rammell: Students without a first HE qualification who study a foundation degree and then continue to a bachelor's degree will continue to attract institutional funding.

Students with a first HE qualification will benefit from the exemption while they study for a foundation degree because that is a specific qualification designed for and by employers. But the exemption does not extend to supporting students who already have a first bachelor's degree or higher qualification to take another one an equivalent or lower level in a different subject after having studied a foundation degree unless that subject was strategically important or the bachelor's degree in question was co-funded by employers.

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of his departmental staff have received vocational training. [205324]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Department's people information is maintained on the HR management systems of the two Departments from which staff were transferred, namely BERR and DCSF. Neither of these Departments is able to provide information on vocational training as their current systems do not hold central information on training or qualifications. As a consequence of this, identification of the level of vocational training could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

The introduction of a single new HR management system in 2009 will allow staff to record their qualifications and thereby enable monitoring.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether any officials in his Department were disciplined or dismissed for *(a)* alleged breaches of data protection requirements and *(b)* inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205896]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office has neither disciplined nor dismissed any employee in the past three years for alleged breaches of data protection requirements or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many work permit holders were given leave to enter the UK in each of those years. [206263]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many work permit holders were given leave to enter the UK in each of those years. (206263)

The estimates of inward migration to the UK of those intending to stay 12 months or more are taken from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and are shown in the table attached.

Those with a work related reason for migration are those with a definite job to go to and those looking for work. The data are also broken down by British, European Union and non-European Union citizens as work permits are only applicable to non-EU citizens.

Work permit data from the Home Office was provided for a previous Parliamentary Question. Please see Official Report, written answers, 12 September 2007 column 2159W to 2161W.

International migration: Estimates from the International Passenger survey time series 2004-06—Citizenship by reason for migration—Inflow (United Kingdom)

Thousand

	2004			*2005*			*2006*		
					Of which:				
Main reason for migration	*Work related*	*Definite job*	*Looking for work*	*Work related*	*Definite job*	*Looking for work*	*Work related*	*Definite job*	*Looking for work*
All citizenships	215	143	72	226	152	74	214	149	65
British	37	15	22	48	23	25	31	16	15
European Union[1]	65	51	14	86	62	24	83	55	28
Non-European Union	112	76	36	93	68	25	100	78	22

[1] Figures show the EU25 (EU15 plus the 10 countries of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). These countries are included in the definition for the whole of 2004, whether migration occurred before or after 1 May 2004.

Note:

Those with a work related reason for migration are those with a definite job and those looking for work

Pay

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average hourly earnings of *(a)* women and *(b)* men undertaking part-time (i) manual and (ii) non-manual work was in each of the last five years; and what average hourly earnings for (A) women and (B) men in part-time work were in each such year. [206319]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average hourly earnings of (a) women and (b) men doing part-time (i) manual and (ii) non-manual work was in each of the last five years; and what the average hourly earnings for (A) women and (B) men was in part-time work in each such year. (206319)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

I attach a table for the last five years, showing the average hourly earnings for UK manual and non-manual part-time employees.

Gross hourly pay (£)—part-time employee jobs[1]: United Kingdom

Description	*Median*	*Mean*
2003		
Male	6.02	9.14
Female	6.13	7.84
Male Non-Manual	10.67	14.50
Male Manual	5.29	6.24
Female Non-Manual	8.40	10.11
Female Manual	5.33	5.86
2004[2]		
Male	6.22	9.21
Female	6.39	8.18
Male Non-Manual	10.70	14.27
Male Manual	5.53	6.57
Female Non-Manual	8.70	10.45
Female Manual	5.48	6.08

Gross hourly pay (£)—part-time employee jobs[1]: United Kingdom

Description	*Median*	*Mean*
2004[3]		
Male	6.24	9.18
Female	6.35	8.13
Male Non-Manual	10.55	14.06
Male Manual	5.53	6.61
Female Non-Manual	8.64	10.39
Female Manual	5.46	6.06
2005		
Male	6.58	10.02
Female	6.75	8.71
Male Non-Manual	11.42	15.58
Male Manual	5.75	7.12
Female Non-Manual	9.39	11.29
Female Manual	5.70	6.35
2006[4]		
Male	6.89	10.49
Female	7.03	9.17
Male Non-Manual	12.60	16.37
Male Manual	5.98	7.28
Female Non-Manual	9.88	11.99
Female Manual	5.96	6.57
2006[5]		
Male	6.88	10.47
Female	7.02	9.14
Male Non-Manual	12.47	16.27
Male Manual	5.98	7.28
Female Non-Manual	9.81	11.92
Female Manual	5.96	6.58
2007		
Male	7.22	11.07
Female	7.30	9.58
Male Non-Manual	13.97	17.51
Male Manual	6.15	7.64
Female Non-Manual	10.29	12.63
Female Manual	6.19	6.87

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.
[3] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).
[4] 2006 results are methodology consistent with 2005.
[5] 2006 results are methodology consistent with 2007.

Notes:

1. The manual/non-manual classification is derived from National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC). Further information is available at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/default.asp
2. Values 1 and 2 of the 'Three Class' split define non-manual and Value 3 defines manual. It is important to note that a manual/non-manual split derived from NS-SEC is not the same as the manual/non-manual split used in NES 2002 and earlier.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics. 2003-07

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205047]

Edward Miliband: In 2007-08, the Cabinet Office built one smoking shelter, to replace an earlier temporary shelter located at the rear of 70 Whitehall building. This is also located at the rear of 70 Whitehall.

Tracy Temple

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in which Department Ms Tracy Temple works. [205488]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

It is not Government practice to name individual civil servants below the senior civil service or comment on their employment.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Bilateral Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what occasions bilateral aid has been reduced or interrupted because *(a)* a partner government had moved significantly away from agreed poverty reduction outcomes, *(b)* a partner government was in significant violation of human rights or other international obligations and *(c)* there had been a significant breakdown in partner government financial management and accountability since March 2005. [206280]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) reported information on aid reductions and interruptions since March 2005 in its departmental reports for 2006, 2007 and 2008. All the reports can be found on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Developing Countries: Education

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will take steps to ensure that the funding of education is part of every humanitarian response. [202767]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) humanitarian policy seeks to ensure that priority needs are met in emergency situations. In an emergency, education is considered alongside other humanitarian needs and is funded in situations where it is considered high priority by the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator in the affected country. UNICEF and Save the Children share responsibility for ensuring that education needs are met, which includes demonstrating education needs to the Humanitarian Co-ordinator.

India: Children

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the level of child labour in India. [205685]

Mr. Malik: According to available data (the government of India National Sample Survey 2004-05) there are 70 million child labourers in India or a quarter of all child labourers in the world. A large proportion of India's child labourers are Dalit (formerly "untouchables") and Adivasi (tribal) children. The majority of working children live in rural areas, with over 80 per cent. of them employed in agricultural and non-formal sectors and many in bonded labour.

The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the government of India and other partners to protect children in India. For example, DFID India supports the government's flagship programme for universal elementary education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Studies of child migrant labourers have found that discouragement at school was one of the factors that pushed children into work. Increasing enrolment, retention and reducing drop out rates are central to the SSA programme, which has also pioneered "bridge schools" designed to bring working children back into mainstream education. DFID India's strategic partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is contributing directly to the elimination of child labour in Andhra Pradesh. The project has been successful in helping government of Andhra Pradesh to reduce the number of child labourers in the state from 1.3 million to 0.2 million by 2007. Working with government, civil society, employers and trade unions an innovative model for reducing child labour in urban areas has been developed and is now being promoted nationally by the ILO.

India: Education

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has given to educational development projects in India in each of the last three years. [205689]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £161 million since 2005 in support of the Indian government's flagship 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' (SSA) universal elementary education programme: £58 million in 2005-06; £50 million in 2006-07; and £53 million in 2007-08.

SSA is the central government's prime vehicle for delivering on the universal primary education (UPE) millennium development goal (MDG) in India. The aim is to ensure that by 2010 all children in India are receiving eight years of basic education of acceptable quality, regardless of sex, caste, creed, family income or location. In addition to SSA, in the last three years DFID has also provided £27 million in support of primary education in the State of Orissa and £9.2 million in support of primary education in West Bengal.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Fossil Fuels

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to reduce businesses' dependency on fossil fuels. [202984]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* UK energy policy is based on a market approach. With rising fossil fuel (oil, gas and coal) prices, which also feed into the price of electricity, there is every incentive for businesses to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels themselves without Government intervention. However, in the context of our climate change policy, the Government are taking a large number of actions that will reduce the UK's dependence on fossil fuel-based energy. These include:

De-carbonising the electricity mix through EU emissions trading system (ETS);

Renewables obligation, carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration, and the nuclear policy framework;

Providing funding and support to emerging non-fossil-fuel technologies in the transport, electricity and heat sectors, for example, via the Environmental Transformation Fund;

Reducing use of fossil-based transport fuels through the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO);

Installation of smart meters in businesses thereby allowing them to have more direct control over the energy spending and therefore dependency on fossil fuels; and

Carbon reduction commitments (CRC)—starting in January 2010—which commit large business not in the EU ETS to reduce their carbon emissions and thereby their use of fossil fuels.

Climate change levy acts to encourage use of renewables—as businesses can be exempted from the levy (levy exemption certificates) if they install renewables. The Carbon Trust was set up to encourage business to reduce their carbon footprint.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to review the business principles of the Export Credits Guarantee Department; and what progress has been made in developing proposals for a review. [206456]

Malcolm Wicks: There is no plan to review ECGD's business principles in the immediate future.

Farepak

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Companies Investigation Branch expects to receive independent legal advice on its report into Farepak. [206381]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* Companies Investigations Branch will be receiving independent legal advice during the course of the next few weeks.

Heating: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many times his Department discussed the proposed labelling of heating systems in the energy-using products directive with representatives from the European Commission in 2007-08; and what plans he has for such discussions in 2008-09. [206452]

Malcolm Wicks: Both BERR and DEFRA officials have been in regular contact with the European Commission concerning the boilers and water heater proposals under the energy-using products directive in 2007-08. The latest engagement includes:

EuP Consultation Forum on 18 December 2007;

A bilateral meeting with the Commission on 31 January 2008;

EuP Consultation Forum on 29 February 2008;

Conference call with Commission on 24 April 2008; and

An informal meeting with Commission and other member states is planned for 22 May 2008.

In addition to the discussions with the Commission, BERR and DEFRA have continued to work closely with the relevant industry sectors and BERR hosted a full day workshop (chaired by DEFRA) with industry representatives at BERR in February this year.

A similar level of engagement is expected over the coming 12 months.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the efficacy of the Low Carbon Buildings programme; and if he will make a statement. [202963]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings programme Phase 1 was set up with a key objective to demonstrate the potential of combining microgeneration technologies with energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions in buildings. Phase 2 of the LCBP had aims to achieve reductions in the costs of microgeneration products; to see microgeneration products demonstrated on a wider scale; and to achieve greater visibility and understanding of microgeneration technologies by the general public as a result of their installation on a wide range of public buildings. We monitor progress against these objectives and periodically review overall effectiveness.

As part of the normal course of business we have ongoing discussions with a wide range of stakeholders about the Low Carbon Buildings programme.

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate: Sellafield

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to grant consent to operate the MOX plant at Sellafield. [205228]

Malcolm Wicks: The nuclear installations inspectorate (NII) has not yet identified a date for granting a consent to operate the Sellafield MOX plant (SMP) facility. Sellafield Ltd., as holder of the site licence and responsibility for safety on the site, will formally request a consent to operate the MOX plant from the NII when it believes that a satisfactory demonstration of successful commissioning has been achieved and an appropriate safety case submitted in support of the application.

Oil: Prices

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information he holds on the assumptions and predictions made by *(a)* each EU country and *(b)* each G8 country about the price of oil in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2020 for benchmarking purposes. [206557]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The Department is currently in the process of updating its oil price assumptions for the period till 2020, which are used in the Department's analytical work. The last set of future oil price assumptions were published alongside the Energy White Paper in May 2007 and can be found in Annex B of the document titled 'Updated energy and carbon emissions projections: the energy white paper' at the following link:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39580.pdf.

However, the Department does not hold information on the oil price assumptions and predictions made by the other EU and G8 countries.

The US Department of Energy publishes oil price related information on its EIA website. More information can be found at the following links:

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiatf/ieo/index.html

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/0484(2007).pdf

Post Offices: Closures

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices which were not closed as part of the Post Office closure programme have closed since October 2007. [205501]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director, of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which local authorities in Gloucestershire made submissions to the recent restructuring review for post offices. [204954]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director, of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of the investment fund established to support the Royal Mail Pension Plan was at the end of 2007-08. [205502]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* Royal Mail's preliminary results published on 8 May indicate that the value of the escrow account put in place to support the pension fund is £1.07 billion.

Small Businesses: Solar Power

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what sources of advice and financial support are available to small and medium enterprises seeking to employ solar power generation for their factories. [203640]

Malcolm Wicks: The Renewables Obligation is the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable electricity generation with all eligible renewable electricity generation installations able to receive Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs). We have proposed that all electricity generated by solar photovoltaic panels will be eligible to claim 2 ROCs for every 1MWh of renewable electricity generated from April 2009. This should benefit small and medium enterprises (SMEs) wishing to install solar photovoltaic panels.

Under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP), with an £86 million budget, around £30 million has been allocated to 6,300 projects, including £6.5 million to 152 projects in the private sector. Although all funding streams for SMEs have now closed to new applicants, we are working closely with the Carbon Trust on a number of private sector projects to raise awareness of the potential for combining microgeneration with energy efficiency to develop low carbon buildings. Further details are available at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Advice is available from a number of sources, including the Carbon Trust who provides site surveys to organisations, including SMEs, looking to reduce their energy demand, save money and manage their carbon emissions more efficiently. Further details are available at:

www.carbontrust.co.uk/solutions/sme_toolkit.htm

Further assistance is available through Business Link at www.businesslink.gov.uk and Regional Development Agencies at:

www.englandsrdas.com

We are currently reviewing our support for renewable energy and will be consulting on this in the summer.

Solar Energy: Space Technology

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the potential of space-based installations to harness solar power as an energy source. [206175]

Malcolm Wicks: We understand that there are developments taking place on space-based solar photovoltaic arrays with the potential to beam electricity back to earth. Although there are potential advantages over land-based installations, we understand that there remain questions related to technical feasibility, maintenance, costs and commercial application.

Utilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on which occasions, and related to which matters, his Department has asked regulators of utilities to undertake specific investigations in the last five years; and which investigations were undertaken as a consequence. [205245]

Malcolm Wicks: In February 2007, following the issuing of a merger intervention notice under the Enterprise Act 2002 in the matter of BSkyB's acquisition of a 17.9 per cent. stake in ITV plc the Secretary of State also instructed Ofcom to investigate and report on the public interest considerations involving the need for a sufficient plurality of persons with control of media enterprises, as a result of BSkyB's acquisition.

Wind Power: Scouts and Guides

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will meet representatives from Dorset Scouts to discuss the effect on scouting of the location of wind turbines close to residential scouting activity centres. [206551]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* Due to heavily committed diaries, I regret that it would not be possible for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State or other Ministers from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) to meet representatives from Dorset Scouts to discuss the effect on scouting of the location of wind turbines close to residential scouting activity centres.

Whether an application for consent for a particular wind farm is dealt with by BERR under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 or by the relevant local planning authority under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Dorset Scouts can put forward their views during the consultation period. Those views would then be taken into account before the decision is made.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Renewal: East Lancashire

11. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the performance of the East Lancashire housing market renewal pathfinder, Elevate. [206432]

Mr. Iain Wright: All nine housing market renewal pathfinders are assessed for the Department by the Audit Commission on a regular basis. The most recent assessment of Elevate's performance was made as part of the latest business planning round and published in February this year. This found that Elevate is performing well and continues to be in strong need of investment. As a result, we have announced funding of £150 million for the three-year period 2008-11.

Cranbrook Development: East Devon

12. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to provide infrastructure for the proposed Cranbrook development in East Devon. [206433]

Caroline Flint: Government are working in partnership with local authorities and homebuilders on the delivery of this new community at Exeter. We have contributed £1 million in 2007-08, and £5.5 million has been allocated for 2008-11 for infrastructure, which will continue to support substantial further investment from the private sector.

Mortgages

14. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the mortgage industry on the cost of mortgages and likely trends in the number of repossessions. [206435]

Caroline Flint: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and I met with the mortgage and lending industry on 22 April to discuss what the industry can do to support borrowers in difficulty during the current period of turbulence in global financial markets.

Appropriate meetings are happening and will be arranged, to continue the useful exchange of information and agree action to be taken.

Traveller Caravans

15. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Traveller caravans there were in England when the Caravan Sites Act 1968 *(a)* came into force and *(b)* was repealed; and how many there are now. [206436]

Mr. Iain Wright: A bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England has been undertaken since 1979. In January 1979, 8,358 caravans were counted. Part 2 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968, which included a duty on local authorities to provide sites, was repealed in 1994. In July 1994, 12,614 caravans were counted. In July 2007, 17,134 caravans were counted.

Empty Properties

16. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on bringing empty properties back into use since 1997. [206437]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 1997, the number of empty homes has reduced by 10 per cent. to 672,924 dwellings or some 3.1 per cent. of the housing stock.

During that time we have been working closely with the independent Empty Homes Agency to encourage local authorities to tackle empty homes in their areas. We have also introduced new powers to allow local authorities to take over the management of private sector empty homes (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) where a voluntary approach is not successful.

As a further incentive, from 2008, VAT will be charged at 5 per cent. on renovation of homes empty for two years or longer.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

17. **Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the use of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund to tackle worklessness. [206438]

John Healey: The Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) was announced in December 2007 and the initial payment was made in April 2008.

We already know that all 65 WNF areas have included worklessness targets in their LAA and are developing plans to these ensure targets are met.

Women Councillors

18. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her response to the report of the Councillors Commission is, with particular reference to means of increasing the number of women councillors. [206439]

John Healey: The Government are concerned that only 29 per cent. of councillors are women. We established the Councillors Commission last year to consider how to get a wider range of people to become councillors. We will respond to the Councillors Commission report in the Empowerment White Paper, to be published in the summer.

Local Housing Need

19. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to ensure future housing projections meet local housing need. [206440]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government set out their plan for addressing housing need in last year's Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable', including setting a new target of providing 3 million additional homes by 2020. Delivery is taking place through a collaborative process between local authorities and other local and regional stakeholders, including involving local communities, as set out in national Planning Policy Statements.

Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007

20. **Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of the Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007; and if she will make a statement. [206441]

John Healey: The likely effects of the reforms were set out in the impact assessment published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations Number 2008:386.

Inward Migration

21. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the development of plans to assist local authorities and housing providers to respond to the demands imposed by inward migration. [206442]

Caroline Flint: The Government recognise that in addition to the benefits the country derives from migration, there can be some transitional impacts. CLG is working across government and with our stakeholders to identify what additional support the Government can offer communities and public service providers in England experiencing migration related impacts.

Unitary Reorganisation: East Anglia

22. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she next expects to meet representatives of local authorities in East Anglia to discuss unitary reorganisation. [206443]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 821W.

Eco-towns

23. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the potential for eco-towns to contribute to an increase in the supply of housing and affordable housing. [206444]

Caroline Flint: In "Eco-towns—Living a greener future", we have set out the number of homes that each of the shortlisted locations are expecting to deliver. Alongside this there is an assessment of the affordability pressure. As part of the eco-town criteria, between 30 and 50 per cent. of homes should be affordable.

Shared Equity Ownership

24. **Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her assessment is of the role of shared equity ownership in helping people to purchase their first homes. [206445]

Caroline Flint: The Government's Low Cost Home Ownership scheme 'HomeBuy' which is based on equity sharing has helped over 35,000 people between 2006-08. The range of products available under the scheme have helped to make home ownership affordable to first time buyers, and enabled purchasers get a foot on the property ladder.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the reviews of the regional spatial strategies by regional development agencies. [206424]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our consultation document "Prosperous Places: Taking Forward the Review of Sub-national Economic Development and Regeneration" was published on 31 March. This document invites views on how we should implement the new arrangements, including the role of local authorities. The closing date for responses is 20 June, and we intend to introduce a Bill in the next session.

Council Dwellings: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council dwellings have been *(a)* sold and *(b)* built in Colchester constituency since May 1997. [206434]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since April 1997, there have been 876 sales of council dwellings and no new dwellings built by Colchester borough council. In the same period, a total of 1,130 new affordable homes have been provided mainly through registered social landlords, of which 889 were for social rent.

Demolition: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much housing renewal grant funding has been allocated for demolition of properties in each of the housing renewal pathfinder areas in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement; [206828]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* demolitions and *(b)* repairs, improvements and refurbishments in each of the housing renewal pathfinder areas in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [206829]

Mr. Iain Wright: Allocations to Housing Market Renewal pathfinders are made for the totality of their programmes, and not for individual elements, on the basis of strategies set out in their business plans. It is for individual pathfinders to judge how much should be spent on particular activities, taking into account local market conditions and the outcome of local consultations.

In terms of outputs for 2008-09, pathfinders are currently considering their detailed plans in light of the specific funding allocations from the additional £1 billion of investment from this Department announced on 28 February 2008. Output targets will be agreed with the Department in due course, and set out in Funding Agreements for the year, copies of these will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultancy firms her Department has commissioned work from in the last 12 months, and for what purpose. [202643]

Mr. Dhanda: A list of contracts awarded for consultancy during the last 12 months, which includes a brief description of the purpose, has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Contracts for under £20,000 are not recorded centrally and details could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204702]

Hazel Blears: The final measurement against the targets will be collated and officially published by Cabinet Office in autumn 2008.

The Department for Communities and Local Government intends to report that it exceeded all the cross-Government targets set by the 10 Point Diversity Plan. The following table shows our recorded data for the senior civil service as at 31 March 2008.

SCS Group	*Cross-Government targets*	*Percentage Result at 31 March 2008*
Women in SCS	37	41.3
Women in top management posts	30	33.3
BME staff[1]	4	4.8
Staff with Disabilities[1]	3.2	4.7

[1] These results are not based on all SCS staff, but on the 77 per cent. of SCS staff who have provided information to personnel information management system (PIMS), which can be updated by staff at any time.

Departmental Film

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1392W, on departmental film, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* purpose was of each film produced by the Communications Directorate. [203070]

Mr. Dhanda: The eight films produced are as follows:

1. *Mental health and social exclusion*

Length: 12 minutes

Summary: Case studies about people with mental health problems who feel excluded from society. The film's purpose is to enable people who feel excluded from society to successfully enter employment, by changing perceptions of people with mental health problems. The film was produced in consultation with the social exclusion unit.

Date: 2006

2. *A film about the work of the Department*

Length: 4 minutes

Summary: A montage of previous departmental videos.

Date: 2006

3. *Strong and prosperous communities: A bigger voice*

Length: 14 minutes 48 seconds

Summary: Examines how to create stronger relationships between service providers and residents. Research suggests that involving communities increases public trust, confidence in local democracy and improved services.

Date: 2006

4. *What is community empowerment?*

Length: 9 minutes 30 seconds

Summary: Focuses on the importance of engaging local people in shaping their communities for the better, based on examples from around the country. Produced with the Improvement and Development Agency.

Date: 2007

5. *One year on (Celebrating success and looking to the future)*

Summary: A PowerPoint presentation for departmental staff talking about improvements to working practices.

Date: 2007

6. *Preventing extremism, strengthening communities*

Length: 14 minutes 29 seconds

Summary: A film about local projects engaging communities and preventing extremism. It was used at the Building Stronger Communities Conference in 2007 and distributed to attendees to help spread best practice. It includes case studies and examples including faith leaders and young people.

Date: 2007

7. *The Code for Sustainable Homes*

Length: 5 minutes

Summary: For use with construction industry and local government on improving the construction and environmental friendliness of homes in the context of the new Code for Sustainable Homes.

Date: 2008

8. *Improving the energy efficiency of our homes and buildings*

Length: 11 minutes

Summary: A film for building owners, explaining how energy efficiencies can be made in buildings in order to tackle climate change. It also explores how energy performance certificates work and how they can benefit building owners.

Date: 2008

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of her Departmental website. [200163]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government have embarked on a major exercise to review, rationalise and converge their websites. In this context, the new departmental website was launched in August 2007. Costs of £1,199,209 were incurred for research into the needs of website users, set up and site development, design, information architecture and data migration, editorial work and training.

The website is supported by the Department's enterprise software licence and was implemented as part of the Department's wider web rationalisation project.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205187]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 36W.

The Department spent £8,681 on interpretation services in 2007-08. Details of interpretation services are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department began the research into return path usage among the elderly referred to in the minutes of the Emerging Technologies Group meeting on 27 February in relation to the digital switchover assistance scheme. [204919]

Mr. Iain Wright: Together with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department has been exploring the opportunities around providing return path functionality for recipients of the digital switchover 'Help Scheme', and the meeting of the Emerging Technologies Group formed part of the discussions on this issue. The Department has not commissioned specific research on the usage of services by the elderly that are provided through a set-top box with a return path; the minutes refer to emerging data on the take-up of services specifically targeted at this group through the interactive 'DigiTV' platform, which is provided by Kirklees council.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times fire and rescue services evacuated residents from their homes in each of the last five years. [206786]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Inspections

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many inspection visits to each type of premises were made by each fire authority under the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in each month since the Order came into force. [206003]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of audits is submitted to the department via annual returns from each fire and rescue authority, the most recent information available is for 2006-07. As the Order came into effect on 1 October 2006, Fire and Rescue Services were not required to provide these data for 2006-07. However 16 authorities provided these figures for the period 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007. These figures have been deposited in the Library of the House.

A complete set of figures will be available from 2007-08 onwards.

Fire Services: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many emergency fire control staff are employed in local fire control rooms in each *(a)* fire authority and *(b)* region; and what indicative numbers are used by her Department for planning purposes of control staff required for each regional control centre under steady state operating conditions. [206787]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 561-62W to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) which sets out the number of staff employed in each of the existing 46 control rooms. Staffing figures fluctuate for a number of reasons, including maternity cover, secondments etc.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1856-57W to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) which details the indicative staffing figures for each of the nine Regional Control Centres (RCC). The actual number of staff employed will be a matter for each RCC Local Authority Control Company (LACC) to decide.

Fires: Warehouses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to receive the inquiry report from the Health and Safety Executive and the Metropolitan Police into the fatal fire at the warehouse at Atherstone-on-Stour in Warwickshire on 2 November 2007; and if she will make a statement. [205816]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* The joint Police and Health and Safety Executive investigation is on-going and currently there is no date for its conclusion. The Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser is in close contact with the ongoing investigations and is keeping me informed. It would be inappropriate to comment further whilst the investigation is in progress.

Freedom of Religion: UN Agencies

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what response she plans to make to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief's report on her mission to the UK. [193149]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government will not be responding directly to the UN Special Rapporteur's report on her mission to the UK. The report is currently with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who are considering how to respond.

Housing

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to assist first-time buyers with house purchases in the next two years. [206430]

Caroline Flint: As set out in the Housing Green Paper, we aim to help 75,000 more householders on to the property ladder over the next three years. Building on the existing programme, the Prime Minister last week announced further help to enable more first time buyers get a foot on the housing ladder.

Housing: Regeneration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to review the implementation of the housing market renewal area partnership business plans agreed in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [206859]

Mr. Iain Wright: From the outset of the Housing Market Renewal programme, the Audit Commission has undertaken reviews of each of the nine original partnerships every year, and this work will continue in relation to the ongoing programme. The Commission will also begin to review the Tees Valley programme from 2008, in view of its increased funding. The Commission's reports are published on its website.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times her Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205008]

Mr. Dhanda: The breakdown of information in the format requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All departmental expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Michael Clark

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will hold discussions with Leeds City Council on the events leading up to its housing of convicted murderer Michael Clark. [206393]

Mr. Dhanda: The West Yorkshire MAPPA Senior Management Board are holding a serious case review into the events surrounding Michael Clark's release. Learning points from that review will be shared with relevant agencies locally and nationally. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will make a decision on meeting with Leeds city council after the review findings are published.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* (i) enforcement and (ii) prohibition notices were issued and *(b)* prosecutions were brought by fire authorities under the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in each month since it came into force. [206002]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is submitted to the department via annual returns from each fire and rescue authority, and the most recent information available is for 2006-07. As the order came into effect on 1 October 2006, Fire and Rescue Services were not required to provide these data for 2006-07. However 18 authorities provided these figures for the period 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007. These are set out as follows. A complete set of figures will be available from 2007-08 onwards.

	Number
Enforcement notices	721
Prohibition notices	121
Prosecutions	1

Sleeping Rough

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of rough sleepers. [206467]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2007 national estimate of the number of rough sleepers in England showed 498 people sleeping rough on any single night, a 73 per cent. reduction on the 1998 baseline. The estimate is based on the results of local authority street counts in those areas where a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem has been identified.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many smoking shelters were built at each of her Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205048]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government's buildings are smokefree. The Department has not constructed any smoking shelters.

Temporary Accommodation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were living in hostels at the most recent date for which figures are available. [206468]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Homeless UK project, run by the Resource Information Service, provides information on hostels and supported accommodation for homeless people in England. There are 1,204 accommodation projects with over 57,000 bedspaces. 246 are direct access hostels with 9,000 bedspaces. Direct access hostels are short-stay emergency services aimed at rough sleepers and those in need of immediate accommodation.

Data on the number of households placed in temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation are available in our quarterly statistical release, which provides a breakdown by type of temporary accommodation, including hostels; at the end of December 2007, there were 6,620 households placed in hostels (including women's refuges).

JUSTICE

Chelmsford Prison: Drugs

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* remand and *(b)* sentenced prisoners in HMP Chelmsford tested positive for illegal drugs in each of the last five years. [206064]

Mr. Hanson: The percentage of positive random mandatory drug tests at Chelmsford prison in each of the last five financial years is detailed in the following table. The data recorded on mandatory drug testing at Chelmsford prison cannot be differentiated between remand and sentenced prisoners.

Random mandatory drug testing at Chelmsford prison

Financial year	*Positive rate (percentage)*
2003-04	25.7
2004-05	10.8
2005-06	8.0
2006-07	4.7
2007-08	6.9

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205895]

Mr. Wills: According to centrally held records in the former DCA, members of staff have been disciplined and dismissed for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last three years.

According to centrally held records in the public sector Prison Service, members of staff have been disciplined and dismissed for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last three years. In some of these cases, the inappropriate use of data is actually included as part of a wide range of charges against the members of staff.

According to centrally held records in the former NOMS and OCJR there have been no recorded cases of discipline or dismissal for breaches of data protection and inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data.

Departmental Marketing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department plans to spend on public relations in 2008-09. [203316]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice plans the following public relations activity in 2008-09:

MoJ HQ

£160,000 in relation to community sentencing. This is provisional and subject to other planning in the course of 2008-09.

HMCS

£60,000 in relation to community engagement projects in Merseyside and Cheshire.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—a cross-departmental team which reports to Ministry of Justice, Home Office and the Attorney-General's Office.

£150,000 for a promotion of Inside Justice Week.

£100,000 for a Justice Awards event.

The Office of the Public Guardian, Tribunals Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service have no agreed plans.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205828]

Bridget Prentice: As most of my Department's consultation exercises were covered by departmental costs as an integral part of the policy-making process, extracting the information requested would prove very difficult. However some consultations were funded by a different method and the costs of those can be found in the following table.

£

Name of consultation	*Cost of written consultation paper*[1]	*Cost of consultation roadshows/stakeholder focus groups*[2]
2006 consultations		
Openness in the Family Courts—Confidence and Confidentiality (2006)	20,000	8,000
Legal Aid: a sustainable future (joint consultation with Legal Services Commission) (2006)	23,500 (matched by Legal Services Commission)	Paid for by Legal Services Commission
2007 consultations		
Openness in the Family Courts—a new approach (2007)	14,000	—
Judicial Appointments: the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary (2007)	15,000	—
War-making powers and international treaties (2007)	14,000	—
NOMS Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending (2007)	—	75,000
NOMS Believing we can (2007)	—	10,000
NOMS Third Sector Strategy (2007)	—	20,000
	—	+18, 000 for joint consultation events for NOMS Believing We Can and NOMS Third Sector Strategy
MoJ Third Sector Strategy (2007)	35,500	—
OCJR Improving the criminal justice process for young witnesses (2007)	—	2,000

Name of consultation	*Cost of written consultation paper*[1]	£ *Cost of consultation roadshows/stakeholder focus groups*[2]
2008 consultations		
Best Value in Probation NOMS (2008)	4,500	7,500

[1] Where no costs specified, in-house facilities used.
[2] Where no costs specified, in-house facilities used.
Note:
Please note that all figures given are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much funding from receipts from the victims surcharge was awarded to charitable and voluntary groups who work with victims of domestic violence and domestic abuse in 2007-08; [205715]

(2) which charitable and voluntary groups that work with victims of domestic violence and domestic abuse received funding from the receipts from the victims surcharge in 2007-08; and how much each received. [205716]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the total amount and which groups, with individual amounts, received funding from the victims surcharge for work with victims of domestic violence and domestic abuse in 2007-8.

The table gives details of the grants. In the main this is to Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Services which support the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs). Seed-funding grants are given to each group subject to confirmation of match funding locally. Continued funding is dependent upon satisfactory reports on performance.

In a full year the surcharge will raise £16 million of new money. All this money is going directly towards better services for victims of crime and witnesses. These include £3 million for witness care units, £3 million for independent domestic violence advisers and £8 million for other support services for victims, the details of which will be announced shortly. £1,250,000 will be allocated to organisations helping victims of sexual violence, and another £750,000 will be allocated to organisations helping victims of other types of crime.

Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Services supporting specialist domestic violence courts (SDVCs) Seed-funding grants to each group subject to confirmation of match funding locally, 2007-08

Government Office Region	*(£)*
London Region	
Advance (Hammersmith and Fulham);	20,000
Women's Trust IDVA Service (Kensington and Chelsea)	20,000
Croydon Women's Aid - Croydon SDVC	20,000
London Domestic Violence Co-Ordinating Group (for division)	120,000
Victim Support - Brent SDVC	20,000
Eastern Region:	
Bedfordshire IDA Advisors	20,000
Cambridgeshire IDV Advocacy Service - Huntingdon	20,000
Essex Probation Service - Essex SDVC	40,000
Leeway Women's Aid - Norwich SDVC	20,000
Luton Independent IDA Advisors	20,000
Peterborough City Council - Peterborough SDVC	20,000
Suffolk County Council - Ipswich SDVC	20,000
Sunflower Centre - Watford	20,000
East Midlands Region:	
Derby CSP - Derby SDVC	20,000
Leicester DVIRP - Loughborough	20,000
Lincoln Women's Aid - West Lincs, Lincoln and Grantham	20,000
Mansfield and Ashfield Women's Aid - Mansfield	20,000
Multi agency IDVA service - Chesterfield	20,000
Northampton and Northern Sunflower Centres - Northants	30,000
Women's Aid Advice Centre - Nottingham SDVC	20,000
West Midlands Region:	
Arch N Staffs - N Staffs SDVC	20,000
Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid - Birmingham and Solihull SDVCs	60,000
Coventry Haven - Coventry SDVC	20,000
Shropshire IDVA Service - Shrewsbury, N Shrops, Oswestry	20,000
SOADA - Sandwell SDVC	20,000
Stafford Women's Aid - Cannock Stafford SDVC's	20,000
Stonham - Bromsgrove and Redditch, S Worcs, Kidderminster SDVC	40,000
Stonham -SE Staffs (Burton) SDVC	20,000
Telford IDVA - Telford	20,000
Victim Support - Dudley SDVC	20,000
Walsall DV Forum - Walsall SDVC	30,000
Wolverhampton DV Forum - Wolverhampton SDVC	20,000
Yorkshire and Humberside Region:	
Calderdale DV Forum - Calderdale	20,000
DV Services Keighley - Bingley/Bradford	20,000
ER Yorks Council/DVAP - East Riding SDVC	20,000
HALT - Leeds SDVC	40,000
Hull City Council/DA Partnership - Hull SDVC	20,000
Its My Right and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis - Scunthorpe, Grimsby (and Cleethorpes)	40,000
N Yorks Victim Support - Scarborough and Ryedale SDVC	20,000
Rotherham Women's Aid - Rotherham	20,000
Safer Doncaster Partnership - Doncaster SDVC	20,000
Safe@Home - Wakefield	20,000
Service TBC - York and Selby	20,000
Sheffield DA Forum - Sheffield SDVC	20,000
Victim Support - Barnsley	20,000
South East Region:	20,000

Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Services supporting specialist domestic violence courts (SDVCs) Seed-funding grants to each group subject to confirmation of match funding locally, 2007-08

Government Office Region	*(£)*
Berkshire Women's Aid (Reading, Newbury, Maidenhead)	40,000
Brighton and Hove IDVA Service	20,000
County Council Community Safety DV Team (West Sussex: Worthing, Crawley)	30,000
CRI Domestic Abuse Service (East Sussex: Hastings, Eastbourne, Lewes and Crowborough)	50,000
Early Intervention Project - Portsmouth SDVC	20,000
East Berkshire Women's Aid (High Wycombe, Maidenhead)	40,000
Island Women's Refuge (Isle of Wight)	20,000
Milton Keynes Women's Aid	20,000
Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse (N Oxford - Banbury, Oxford)	30,000
Refuge Kent DV Advocacy Service (Kent: Canterbury, Shepway, Ashford, Dover, Thanet)	80,000
Southampton IDVA Service	35,000
Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight - NW Hants fAndover) SDVC	20,000
Victim Support, NE Hants (Alton) SDVC	20,000
South West Region:	
Bristol DA IDVA Consortium - Bristol	20,000
Exeter Women's Aid - Exeter SDVC	20,000
Family Matters - E Dorset (Bournemouth and Poole) SDVC; W Dorset (Weymouth) SDVC	40,000
Gloucs DV Support and Advocacy Project - Cheltenham SDVC	20,000
IDVA Service - E and mid-West Cornwall (Bodmin and Truro)	20,000
N Devon Women's Aid - Barnstable	20,000
Plymouth Women's Aid - Plymouth SDVC	20,000
S Devon Women's Aid - Torbay	20,000
Service TBC - North Somerset	20,000
Somerset Change - Sedgemoor (Bridgewater) and S Somerset (Yeovil) SDVC	40,000
Southside Family Project - Bath SW Region	20,000
Survive - N Avon (Yate) SDVC	20,000
Victim Support Wilts - Chippenham and Swindon	40,000
North East Region:	
County Durham and Darlington - Durham SDVC	20,000
My Sisters Place - Teeside (Cleveland) SDVC	20,000
North Tees Women's Aid (Stockton)	20,000
Wearside Women in Need - Sunderland	20,000
North West Region:	
Blackburn and Darwen District Women's Aid - Blackburn with Darwen SDVC	20,000
Blackpool and Fylde IDVA Service	20,000
Blackpool Advocacy Service - Blackpool and Fylde	20,000
Cheshire County Council - Chester SDVC	20,000
Chorley and S Ribble Service	20,000
Community Safety Team - Wirral SDVC	20,000
DV Family Safety Unit, Crewe Eastern Cheshire	20,000
IDV Advocacy Service - Manchester	20,000
Impact Housing Association - Carlisle SDVC	20,000
Knowsley DV Support Service - Knowsley SDVC	20,000
Lancaster and District Women's Aid	20,000
MAPS Team - Burnley (Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale) SDVC	20,000
Preston Independent DA Service	20,000
Salford Women's Aid - Salford SDVC	20,000
Service TBC - Sefton SDVC	20,000
Star Centre - Rossendale (Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale) SDVC	20,000
The Relationship Centre - Halton SDVC	20,000
Victim Support, West (Workington and Whitehaven) and South Cumbria, (Barrow and Kendal)	20,000
Warrington DA Support Services	20,000
WAVE - Wigan SDVC	20,000
Worst Kept Secret - Liverpool SDVC	20,000
Wales Region:	
Bridgend Women's Aid - Bridgend SDVC	40,000
Caerphilly CBC, Blaenau Gwent DA Service - Caerphilly SDVC	20,000
Cardiff Women's Safety Unit - Cardiff SDVC	20,000
Carmarthenshire IDAA Service - Llanelli	20,000
DA Resource Team - Merthyr Tydfil	20,000
Monmouthshire County Council - Gwent (Cwmbran) SDVC	20,000
Neath Women's Aid - Neath Port Talbot SDVC	20,000
Newport City Council - Gwent (Newport) SDVC	20,000
Pontypridd Safety Unit - Rhondda Cynon Taff SDVC	20,000
Service TBC - Barry, Vale of Glamorgan	20,000
Swansea Women's Aid / BAWSO - Swansea SDVC	20,000
Tai Hafan - Pembrokeshire - Haverford west SDVC	20,000
Tai Hafan - Wrexham SDVC	20,000
Torfaen County Borough Council - Gwent (Torfaen) SDVC	20,000
Women's Aid and Cymdeithas Tai Hafan - Llandudno/Prestatyn	20,000
Total:	2,955,138

Victims Fund: Sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse[1]

	£
Women's Support Network	28,038
Eva Women's Aid (Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid)	41,724
Womankind (Bristol Women's Therapy Centre)	41,202

Victims Fund: Sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse[1]

	£
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	49,146
Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Advice Centre (SARAC)	15,250
Voice UK	28,000

1 This funding was awarded for support services on sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse, however the organisations also support victims with multiple problems, e.g. domestic violence

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) by what means charitable and voluntary groups in the domestic violence and domestic abuse sector are able to apply for funding from the victims fund; [205717]

(2) what criteria charitable and voluntary groups in the domestic violence and domestic abuse sector are required to meet to be considered for funding from the victims fund. [205718]

Bridget Prentice: The Victims Fund focuses on specialist services for victims of sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse, hate crime and homicide. The grant awards for 2007-8 were allocated following separate open competition application and assessment processes, which were advertised on the Government Funding website.

www.governmentfunding.org.uk.

Organisations supporting victims of domestic violence would have been eligible to apply if the bid was for services that would benefit the advertised target client group.

The grant awards for Third Sector organisations supporting victims of sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse have been made for this financial year, by repeating the grants to last year's recipients. Therefore this part of the scheme is not open for new applications for this year. Decisions on the allocation of grants for hate crime and homicide schemes are still pending.

Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929: Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929, broken down by age group, in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [206132]

Maria Eagle: The requested data relating to offences under the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929 are in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of males and females, broken down by age group, proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts, for the offence of 'Child Destruction' under the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2]

		1997		*1998*		*1999*		*2000*	
Sex	*Age*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Male	10-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	18-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	21 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Male	Total	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Female	10-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	18-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	21 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

		2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*	
Sex	*Age*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Male	10-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	18-20	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Male	21 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	Total	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Female	10-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	18-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	21 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

		2005		*2006*	
Sex	*Age*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Male	10-17	—	—	—	—
Male	18-20	—	—	—	—

		2005		2006	
Sex	*Age*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Male	21 and over	—	1	—	—
Male	Total	—	1	—	—
Female	10-17				
Female	18-20	1	—	—	—
Female	21 and over	1		1	—
Female	Total	2		1	—

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Note:

The number of people found guilty may exceed those proceeded against in a. particular year, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929: Sentencing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sentence was for a person convicted of an offence under the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929 in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [206133]

Mr. Hanson: According to data recorded for this offence in the courts proceedings database there have been two convictions over the period 1997 to 2006.

One was in 1999, which resulted in a custodial sentence of 72 months, one was in 2005, which resulted in a life sentence.

These figures have been taken from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Legal Profession: Pay

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of trends in the levels of remuneration of counsel at the private Bar defending prosecutions brought by the Crown Prosecution Service; and what plans he has to set levels of remuneration for those prosecuting cases at the private Bar in line with remuneration paid to defence counsel. [204737]

Maria Eagle: The Government asked Lord Carter of Coles to lead an independent review of legal aid remuneration. He reported in July 2006 and the Government accepted his recommendation. Some fees to Counsel were reduced and others increased. The net effect was a 9 per cent. increase in fees paid for defence advocacy services. As a result, while prosecution and defence fees had previously been broadly aligned, there is now a disparity between prosecution and defence fees. Prosecution fees are higher than defence fees in the longer, more complex cases, while defence fees are higher in the higher volume of shorter cases in the Crown court.

The appropriate fees for counsel undertaking prosecution work is a matter for the Attorney-General and the Crown Prosecution Service. However, I am aware that discussions are proceeding between the CPS and the Bar Council about possible ways of redistributing current expenditure on prosecution fees to reduce the disparity.

I do not believe that absolute parity between legal aid and prosecution rates is essential for several reasons as the CPS is not purchasing the same services from the self employed Bar as the Legal Service's Commission purchases through legal aid. The CPS as litigators have much greater control over the work undertaken by self employed barristers. Much of the CPS ancillary work and preparatory work more generally, can be undertaken by in house litigators and by Higher Court Advocates.

National Identity

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what events are scheduled as part of the Government's consultation on a British Statement of Values; [206835]

(2) what steps he is taking to formulate a British Statement of Values. [206836]

Mr. Straw: We are currently finalising a process to inform the debate on the Statement of Values. This will include a series of events around the country. We expect to make an announcement about the way ahead before the summer recess.

National Identity: Consultants

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments have been made to external organisations in respect of the development of a British Statement of Values since 3 July 2007. [206834]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 156W, and can confirm that a payment of £5,000 (plus VAT) was made to Promise to support the development of policy in relation to the Statement of Values.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on deportation: offenders, what further progress has been made on prisoner transfer agreements. [206085]

Mr. Hanson: Since responding to the question on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1061W, we have continued to look for opportunities to develop agreements with countries for the return of their nationals. I recently visited Nigeria as part of continuing negotiations on a bilateral agreement. The agreement with Pakistan was signed on 24 August 2007 and will enter into force immediately instruments of ratification have been exchanged. We expect that this agreement will come into force during the summer. Signature of the agreement with Vietnam is also expected shortly. Negotiations with Ghana continue.

Police Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 789W, on police custody, how many police forces were under agreement to participate in Operation Safeguard in each of the last 36 months. [205627]

Mr. Straw: Operation Safeguard was activated in October 2006. The first table covers the period since then. In the period from October 2006 to August 2007 the figures given in the table represent the number of police forces in which Safeguard places were used at any point in the month.

In the period September 2007 to May 2008 the figures in the second table represent the number of police forces in which cells were available for immediate use at any point during the month.

The number of police forces in which Safeguard places were used at any point in the month

Month	Total number of forces
October 2006	14
November 2006	18
December 2006	22
January 2007	30
February 2007	26
March 2007	31
April 2007	31
May 2007	31
June 2007	26
July 2007	18
August 2007	30

The number of police forces in which cells were available for immediate use at any point during the month

Month	Number
September 2007	25
October 2007	28
November 2007	28
December 2007	28
January 2008	24
February 2008	24
March 2008	24
April 2008	8
May 2008	12

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 521W, on young offender institutions, if he will publish the average number of hours of purposeful activity per day in *(a)* prisons which predominantly hold (i) adult male prisoners and (ii) adult female prisoners, *(b)* young offender institutions for males and (c) juvenile institutions in each week in April 2008 as soon as that data becomes available. [204261]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the provisional average number of hours of purposeful activity per day in prisons which predominantly hold (a) adult male prisoners, (b) adult female prisoners and (c) male prisoners in young offender and (d) male prisoners in juvenile institutions, for each week in April 2008. No young offender or juvenile institutes are predominantly categorised as female. Therefore, the average number of hours for a female prisoner in a young offender or juvenile institution cannot be provided.

Average number of hours of purposeful activity per day

Week commencing	Adult male prisons	Adult female prisons	Male young offenders institutions	Male juvenile institutions
6 April 2008	3.6	3.9	3.7	4.2
13 April 2008	3.5	4.1	3.7	4.3
20 April 2008	3.6	4.1	3.8	4.3
27 April 2008	3.5	4.1	3.8	4.1

Prisons: Essex

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he is considering introducing a Titan prison *(a)* in Basildon district and *(b)* in south Essex; and when a decision will be taken. [206555]

Mr. Hanson: No decisions on sites have been taken. The priority search areas for sites are London and the south-east, the north-west and the west midlands.

Sentencing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what training judges receive on consistency in sentencing; what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to encourage consistency in sentencing; and if he will make a statement; [206129]

(2) what recent guidelines his Department has issued to judges about consistency of sentencing; and if he will make a statement. [206130]

Maria Eagle: The responsibility for judicial training lies with the Lord Chief Justice as head of the judiciary and is exercised through the Judicial Studies Board (JSB), an independent body chaired by Lord Justice Maurice Kay.

Sentencing is a judicial function and judges and magistrates are responsible for making decisions in individual cases, subject to the statutory framework laid down by Parliament. All those who pass sentence will also consider relevant case law, Court of Appeal decisions and sentencing guidelines. Because of the independent nature of sentencing, training for both judges and magistrates seeks to promote a consistent approach to decision making, and uses sentencing exercises to give judges the opportunity to discuss the issues involved.

Responsibility for issuing sentencing guidelines rests with the Sentencing Guidelines Council, not the Government. The Council was set up under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and is an independent body chaired by the Lord Chief Justice. In framing or revising sentencing guidelines the Council must have regard to the need to promote consistency in sentencing. The guidelines are binding on all courts—who must give reasons if they depart from the guidelines—and enable them to approach the sentencing of offenders from a common starting point in all criminal cases.

In response to Lord Carter's review of the use of custody, the Sentencing Commission Working Group was set up under the chairmanship of Lord Justice Gage to consider the advantages, disadvantages and feasibility of a structured sentencing framework and permanent Sentencing Commission. The working group will report to the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice in the summer.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* recent representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the police on sentencing policy; and if he will make a statement. [206131]

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) and departmental Ministers regularly meet with the police to discuss a wide range of criminal justice issues.

Prior to introduction of the recent Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill, discussions at official level have been held with the president of ACPO, to provide an overview of the provisions. The Police Federation, together with the Lancashire and West Yorkshire forces, responded to the consultation "Making Sentencing Clearer" in late 2006.

Young Offenders: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female young offenders aged between 10 to 17 years entered custody with (i) a drug misuse problem, (ii) an alcohol misuse problem and (iii) another substance misuse problem in the latest period for which figures are available. [206888]

Mr. Hanson: Current risk factors, including drug and alcohol misuse issues, are recorded on a "live" section of the Youth Justice Board's database under the heading "substance misuse". This information is regularly amended and updated for use by the Youth Justice Board's placement team and, as a result, historical records are not available.

The following table shows the number of young people aged between 10 and 17 year old entering custody on Friday 16 May 2008 and those with identified substance misuse issues.

Friday 16 May2008	*Total number entering custody*	*Those with identified substance misuse issues*	*Percentage of young people with substance misuse issues*
Boys	81	24	30
Girls	5	3	60

Young Offenders: Learning Disability

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders aged 10 to 17 years have been assessed as having (i) dyslexia, (ii) dyspraxia, (iii) a speech and language disorder, (iv) autism and (v) any other learning disorder while in custody in each of the last five years. [206889]

Maria Eagle: Information about specific health problems or learning difficulties among young offenders is not routinely collected. However, the study 'Mental Health Needs and Effectiveness of Provision for Young Offenders in Custody and in the Community' (Professor Richard Harrington and Professor Sue Bailey, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales 2005), identified 23 per cent. of young offenders as having learning difficulties, that is having an IQ of 70 or less.

The hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) is currently leading an independent review of services for children and young people (including offenders) with speech, language and communications needs. This is an independent review supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health.

Young Offenders: North West

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision has been commissioned by the Youth Justice Board for young offenders in the North West under the age of 18 considered suitable for an open young offenders institution place; and if he will make a statement. [206313]

Mr. Hanson: The under-18 unit at Thorn Cross Young Offender Institution showed the possible benefits of open conditions for some young people, but also demonstrated that a single large unit is not viable. Nor is a single unit drawing young people from the whole of England and Wales consistent with the Youth Justice Board's general aim of placing young people as close as possible to their homes.

The Youth Justice Board is developing a strategy for the provision, across the country, of open accommodation for young people in custody. It is likely that this will be linked to existing closed establishments.

Young Offenders: Prison Accommodation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female young offenders aged 10 to 17 years old were held within an adult prison in the last 12 months. [206887]

Mr. Hanson: Juvenile prisoners are usually held in designated juvenile units and prisons. In exceptional individual circumstances juveniles may be held separately within over-18 accommodation for a short period.

Detailed information on whether any under 18s were being held in over-18s accommodation in each of the last 12 months could only be provided by manual checking of individual prisoner records at disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 21 May 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Assessments: Absenteeism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the year 9 absence rate was in each of the schools which reported an absence rate of 5 per cent. or more in respect of key stage 3 national tests; and if he will make a statement. [205311]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of children in the care system are from ethnic minorities; [206927]

(2) how many children were adopted in *(a)* Aylesbury Vale district and *(b)* England in 2007; [206928]

(3) how many respite care home places were available for disabled children in *(a)* Aylesbury Vale district and *(b)* England in 2007; [206929]

(4) how many foster care placements there were in *(a)* Aylesbury Vale district and *(b)* England in 2007. [206930]

Kevin Brennan: Information on Aylesbury Vale (Buckinghamshire) is not collected centrally. Where the question refers to Aylesbury Vale we have provided statistical information on Buckinghamshire as a whole.

Information on the numbers and percentages of children looked after in the care system, broken down by ethnicity over the last five years is shown in the following table. The information is taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007'. The SFR is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml.

Children looked after at 31 March by ethnic origin, 2003-07[1,2,3], England

Number and Percentage

	Number					*Percentage*				
	2003[4]	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*	*2003[4]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*
All children looked after at 31 March[1,2]	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Ethnic origin										
White:										
White British	47,300	46,300	45,9090	45,000	44,700	77	76	75	75	74
White Irish	580	520	500	440	400	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	1,800	1,900	1,800	1,600	1,500	3	3	3	3	3
Mixed:										
White and Black Caribbean	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	3	3	3	3	3
White and Black African	400	410	440	430	440	1	1	1	1	1
White and Asian	750	720	720	750	770	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	3	3	3	3	3
Asian or Asian British:										
Indian	300	300	280	300	290	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistani	510	520	580	610	660	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	200	230	270	280	280	0	0	0	0	0
Any other Asian background	320	480	650	880	1,000	1	1	1	1	2
Black or Black British:										
Caribbean	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	3	3	3	3	3
African	1,800	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,300	3	4	4	4	4
Any other Black background	870	880	900	900	880	1	1	1	1	1
Other ethnic groups:										
Chinese	80	120	120	120	130	0	0	0	0	0

Children looked after at 31 March by ethnic origin, 2003-07[1,2,3], England

Number and Percentage

	Number					*Percentage*				
	2003[4]	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*	*2003[4]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*
Any other ethnic group	750	840	900	1,000	1,200	1	1	1	2	2

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] Figures are derived from the SSDA 903 one-third sample survey.

[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA 903 return which, since 2003-04, has covered all children looked after.

The number of children looked after that were adopted during the year ending 31 March in *(a)* Buckinghamshire was 10, and *(b)* England was 3,300.

Information on the number of respite care home places which were available for disabled children in *(a)* Aylesbury Vale and *(b)* England in 2007 is not collected centrally. However, the numbers of children looked after under an agreed series of short-term breaks (respite), who were placed in a children's home or similar establishment at 31 March 2007, in Buckinghamshire and England, are shown in the following table.

Children looked after at 31 March 2007, in respite care by placement in care homes[1,2], England

Number

		Homes and hostels		*Other establishments*	
	Total	*subject to Children's Homes regulations*	*not subject to Children's Homes regulations*	*Residential care homes*	*NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care*
England	4,200	3,700	10	330	170
Buckinghamshire	10	10	0	0	0

[1] Source: return on children looked after.

[2] Figures at national level have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Figures at local authority level have been rounded to the nearest five or if zero are shown as zero.

The number of looked after children in foster care placements at 31 March 2007 in *(a)* Buckinghamshire was 205 and *(b)* England was 42,300.

Children: Day-care

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure childcare providers have security of funding for the duration of study courses being taken by their employees; and if he will make a statement. [206906]

Beverley Hughes: As set out in our children's plan we have a long-term commitment to have a world class early years system. To improve the quality and training of the early years workforce we have committed an investment of £505 million in a graduate leader. Fund of which £232 million has been allocated for settings via local authorities to introduce more graduate leadership of early years setting in the private, voluntary and independent sectors.

Funding to support training and continuous professional development for the wider workforce (for example up to Level 5 and to work with children with additional needs) is included within the Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (which is £439 million). The funding is not ring-fenced so that local authorities have the decision how to allocate spend depending on local needs. Section 13 of the Childcare Act 2006 however, states that local authorities have a duty to secure the provision of information, advice and training for childcare providers.

Children: Obesity

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of trends in the numbers of children diagnosed as *(a)* obese and *(b)* morbidly obese; and if he will make a statement. [205764]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the exact format requested.

Data on the prevalence of obesity among children aged two to 15 between 1995 and 2006 can be found in the 'Health Survey for England 2006 latest trends', published 31 January 2008. The data are presented in table 4 (obesity) of the Children trend tables 2006. This publication is available in the Library.

The classification system used for measuring obesity in children does not have a definition for morbidly obese.

Pre-School Education

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the take-up rate of the early years education entitlement in each local authority for the most recent period for which figures are available. [206905]

Beverley Hughes: Information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds is shown in the following table.

All three and four-year-olds have been entitled to a free part-time early education place for 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, this offer will be extended from 12.5 to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds England, position in January each year, 2007 data as at 22 May

	Part-time equivalent funded places filled	*Population estimates*	*Part-time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population*
England	1,054,800	1,150,675	91.7
North East	51,830	53,855	96.2
Darlington	2,300	2 355	97.7
Durham	9,560	10,165	94.0
Gateshead	3,805	4,040	94.2
Hartlepool	2,055	2,095	98.1
Middlesbrough	3,360	3,290	102.2
Newcastle upon Tyne	5,280	5,575	94.7
North Tyneside	4,040	4,095	98.7
Northumberland	6,045	6,220	97.2
Redcar and Cleveland	2,915	3,010	96.9
South Tyneside	2,790	2,970	93.9
Stockton-on-Tees	4,045	4,175	96.9
Sunderland	5,635	5,865	96.0
Northwest	143,885	153,545	93.7
Blackburn with Daren	3,775	4,190	90.1
Blackpool	2,735	2,950	92.8
Bolton	6,425	6,540	98.2
Bury	4,120	4,365	94.4
Cheshire	13,385	14,345	93.3
Cumbria	9,265	9,645	96.0
Halton	2,540	2,905	87.5
Knowsley	3,375	3,545	95.2
Lancashire	22,570	24,885	90.7
Liverpool	9,140	9,495	96.3
Manchester	10.380	10,735	96.7
Oldham	5,670	6,055	93.6
Rochdale	4,775	5,220	91.5
Salford	4,790	4,895	97.9
Sefton	5,395	5,600	96.4
St. Helens	3,505	3,825	91.7
Stockport	5,645	5,975	94.5
Tameside	4,520	4,930	91.7
Trafford	4,865	5,150	94.5
Warrington	4,305	4,450	96.8
Wigan	6,140	6,890	89.1
Wirral	6,555	6,965	94.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	107,915	114,650	94.1
Barnsley	4,675	4,860	96.2
Bradford	13,315	14,645	90.9
Calderdale	4,625	4,685	98.7
Doncaster	6,035	6,640	90.9
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,985	6,530	91.7
Kingston upon Hull, City of	5,225	5,395	96.8
Kirklees	9,085	10,255	88.6
Leeds	15,185	15,495	98.0
North East Lincolnshire	3,405	3,525	96.5
North Lincolnshire	3,160	3,445	91.8
North Yorkshire	11,095	11,775	94.2
Rotherham	5,355	5,740	93.3
Sheffield	10,690	11,105	96.3
Wakefield	6,715	7,005	95.8
York	3,375	3,550	95.1
East Midlands	87,865	94,710	92.8
Derby	5,655	5,565	101.6
Derbyshire	14,460	15,500	93.3
Leicester	7,295	7,895	92.4
Leicestershire	11,725	13,680	85.7
Lincolnshire	12,390	13,195	93.9
Northamptonshire	14,350	16,050	89.4
Nottingham	6,135	6,050	101.4
Nottinghamshire	15,150	16,100	94.1
Rutland	710	675	105.0
West Midlands	116,220	125,165	92.9
Birmingham	25,180	28,445	88.5
Coventry	6,825	7,175	95.2
Dudley	6,610	6,855	96.5
Herefordshire	3,125	3,445	90.7
Sandwell	6,955	7,525	92.4
Shropshire	5,725	5,670	100.9
Solihull	4,385	4,280	102.4
Staffordshire	15,470	16,885	91.6
Stoke-on-Trent	5,255	5,465	96.1
Telford and Wrekin	3,710	4,020	92.3
Walsall	6,160	6,500	94.7
Warwickshire	10,430	11,340	92.0
Wolverhampton	5,465	5,710	95.7
Worcestershire	10,925	11,850	92.2
East of England	114,385	127,180	89.9
Bedfordshire	8,630	9,610	89.8
Cambridgeshire	11,360	13,045	87.1
Essex	26,420	30,005	88.0
Hertfordshire	23,995	25,420	94.4
Luton	5,135	5,565	92.3
Norfolk	14,750	16,330	90.3
Peterborough	4,005	4,250	94.2
Southend-on-Sea	3,455	3,740	92.3
Suffolk	13,245	15,380	86.1
Thurrock	3,385	3,830	88.4

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds England, position in January each year, 2007 data as at 22 May

	Part-time equivalent funded places filled	*Population estimates*	*Part-time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population*
London	171,805	193,210	88.9
Inner London[1]	67,615	78,165	86.5
Camden	4,080	5,140	79.4
Hackney	5,685	6,930	82.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,590	4,030	89.1
Haringey	5,875	6,390	91.9
Islington	4,040	4,100	98:5
Kensington and Chelsea	2,515	4,110	61.2
Lambeth	6,390	7,285	87.7
Lewisham	5,680	6,475	87.7
Newham	7,735	8,410	92.0
Southwark	6,220	6,990	89.0
Tower Hamlets	6,020	6,710	89.7
Wandsworth	6,205	6.745	92.0
Westminster	3,470	4,735	73.3
Outer London	104,190	115,045	90.6
Barking and Dagenham	4,405	4,985	88.4
Barnet	7,295	8,550	85.3
Bexley	4,725	5,160	91.5
Brent	6,110	7,065	86.5
Bromley	6,215	6,960	89.3
Croydon	7,735	8,550	90.5
Ealing	7,225	7,680	94.1
Enfield	6,615	7,675	86.2
Greenwich	6,005	6,330	94.9
Harrow	4,325	5,280	81.9
Havering	4,495	4,850	92.6
Hillingdon	6,285	6,340	99.1
Hounslow	4,845	5,740	84.4
Kingston upon Thames	3,140	3,470	90.5
Merton	4,380	4,615	94.9
Redbridge	6,360	6,670	95.3
Richmond upon Thames	4,200	4,720	89.0
Sutton	3,810	4,010	95.0
Waltham Forest	6,025	6,395	94.2
Southeast	166,190	184,105	90.3
Bracknell Forest	2,380	2,660	89.4
Brighton and Hove	4,975	5,255	94.7
Buckinghamshire	10,840	11,550	93.9
East Sussex	8,760	10,075	87.0
Hampshire	24,450	27,490	88.9
Isle of Wight	2,2,10	2,510	88.0
Kent	27,675	31,215	88.7
Medway	5,710	6,235	91.6
Milton Keynes	5,525	6,005	92.0
Oxfordshire	13,170	14,345	91.8
Portsmouth	3,985	4,010	99.4
Reading	3,210	3,360	95.6
Slough	3,180	3,390	93.8
Southampton	4,210	4,550	92.5
Surrey	22,145	24,935	88.8
West Berkshire	3,065	3,475	88.2
West Sussex	14,515	16,340	88.8
Windsor and Maidenhead	2,930	3,220	91.0
Wokingham	3,240	3,485	92.9
Southwest	94,705	104,250	90.8
Bath and North East Somerset	3,135	3,370	93.0
Bournemouth	2,730	2,975	91.8
Bristol, City of	8,085	8,770	92.2
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	9,230	10,090	91.5
Devon	12,425	13,745	90,4
Dorset	6,615	7,385	89.6
Gloucestershire	10,950	12,170	90.0
North Somerset	3,770	4,225	89.2
Plymouth	4,915	5,180	94.9
Poole	2,410	2,760	87.3
Somerset	9,670	10,675	90.6
South Gloucestershire	5,120	5,695	89.9
Swindon	4,060	4,430	91.6
Torbay	2,385	2,625	90.8
Wiltshire	9,190	10,145	90.6

[1] Includes City of London

Notes:

1. A PTE place is equal to five sessions and can be filled by more than one child. A child who attends more than five sessions in any one provider is counted as doing five sessions.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
3. Rounding of components may cause discrepancies in totals.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much and what proportion of the Graduate Leader Fund has been spent; and what guidance has been given to local authorities about how to allocate it. [206908]

Beverley Hughes: The Graduate Leader Fund (£305 million over the CSR period 2008-11) superseded the Transformation Fund on 1 April 2008. Information on the first year of spend (i.e. 2008-09) will be provided to the Department by local authorities through their audited financial statements in the autumn of 2010.

Guidelines on the Graduate Leader Fund guidelines were issued to local authorities in March 2008. The purpose of the funding is to support all PVI full daycare settings to employ graduate leaders of early years practice by 2015. In return, settings in receipt of funding commit to employing a graduate to lead learning and development within the setting in a reasonable time period.

The guidelines set out the Government's expectations as to how the fund should be used by local authorities in particular:

> working with PVI providers to prioritise and allocate funding in ways which best match local demand;
>
> passporting the grant to PVI providers;
>
> providers being able to use funding as a contribution to salary costs and for further continuous professional development for graduates and those training towards becoming graduate early years professionals.

Schools: Computers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of children in maintained schools who have access to computers at school. [206931]

Jim Knight: Over 99 per cent. of schools report having computers available for teaching and learning. In primary schools, there is on average one computer for every 5.7 pupils, and in secondary schools one computer for every 3.2 pupils.

Schools: Cricket

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of support for cricket in state schools. [206926]

Kevin Brennan: The annual School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003-04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and school sport. The latest survey found that 90 per cent. (up from 85 per cent. in 2003-04) of maintained schools in England provided cricket during the academic year. The survey also found that 56 per cent. (up from 45 per cent. in 2003-04) of schools were linked to a local cricket club.

Youth Services: Local Government Finance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding in real terms his Department and its predecessors have provided to Lancashire county council for youth services in the last 10 years; how much of that sum was spent in West Lancashire constituency; and what percentage of the allocation to Lancashire county council that represents. [204215]

Kevin Brennan: Local authorities in England are not allocated money specifically for youth services. It is up to local authorities to decide how much of their overall funding they wish to allocate to youth services based on their own individual needs and circumstances. However, the following table includes how much Lancashire LA has budgeted for youth services in each of the last nine financial years (budget data are not available prior to the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year). Financial data on youth services are collected at a local authority level and as such we are unable to say how much of Lancashire's budgeted funding for youth services has been spent in the West Lancashire constituency.

Budgeted net expenditure by Lancashire LA on youth services

£

	Cash terms	Real terms
1999-2000	7,192,000	8,549,000
2000-01	7,610,000	8,918,000
2001-02	7,532,000	8,620,000
2002-03	7,884,000	8,750,000
2003-04	8,067,000	8,700,000
2004-05	9,440,000	9,908,000
2005-06	10,014,000	10,288,000
2008-07	12,772,000	12,772,000
2007-08	12,251,000	11,865,000

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of UK-born British passport-holding students refused access to concessionary rates of education at UK universities as a result of residence with UK national parents temporarily based overseas for three to five year employment contracts. [206752]

Bill Rammell: There is no record kept of such cases. Generally, UK nationals who have temporarily resided overseas because their parents have undertaken temporary employment contracts are eligible to pay the capped rate of fee and to student support.

UK nationals can be treated as ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands if they would have been so resident but for the fact that they or certain family members, including their parents, were temporarily employed elsewhere; so long as they are ordinarily resident in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of their course.

Students: Grants

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many undergraduates qualified for maintenance grants of *(a)* £2,765, *(b)* £2,417, *(c)* £1,548, *(d)* £1,230, *(e)* £927, *(f)* £401 and *(g)* £50 for the 2007-08 academic year; and how many received no grant. [203523]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The number of undergraduates qualified for maintenance grants for the academic year 2007/08 is not available at the level of detail requested. However the 2007/08 mid-year provisional data were published by the Student Loans Company (SLC) in the Statistical First Release of 27 November 2007 available at

http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/national_statistics.html

The table gives the relevant information.

Distribution of maintenance grants to English domiciled students 207/08 (provisional early figures).

	Students[1]
Full Maintenance Grant[2]	158,000
Partial Maintenance Grant	110,000
Nil Maintenance Grant	217,000
Total	485,000

[1] Excludes students who do not apply to SLC for support. Excludes those not eligible for a maintenance grant because they receive an NHS bursary.

[2] Full grant includes ITT students receiving the full reduced grant (£1,382).

Source:

Student Loans Company.

In July 2007 the Secretary of State announced increases to the means-testing threshold below which students are entitled to a full maintenance grant—up from £17,910 for entrants in 2007/08 to £25,000 for entrants in 2008/09. The threshold for a partial grant will increase from £38,330 for entrants in 2007/08 to £60,005 for entrants in 2008/09. These thresholds relate to household residual income. This will mean that one third of all eligible students in England entering higher education in the academic year 2008/09 are expected to be entitled to a full non-repayable grant worth £2,835 and another one third are expected to be entitled to a partial grant of between £50 and £2,835. Due to these reforms, by 2011, the number of students receiving some level of grant will increase by around 100,000. As part of this change, an extra 50,000 students will receive a full grant.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when in 2008 the Government Equalities Office will be the subject of an equal pay audit. [204688]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office is currently working towards a single set of terms and conditions for its staff. That work will be completed in the summer and the equal pay audit will follow.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what work has been conducted by the Government Equalities Office on *(a)* race, *(b)* age, *(c)* sex and *(d)* disability discrimination since its inception, excluding work conducted by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Women's National Commission, and the former Equalities Commissions and other Government Departments. [201427]

Barbara Follett: In his statement of 26 July 2007, the Prime Minister made clear the remit of the Government Equalities Office (GEO) and confirmed which Departments would retain responsibility for disability and race issues. The GEO has undertaken a range of work relevant to race, age, sex and disability discrimination, including consulting on proposals for a new Equality Bill, and taking lead responsibility for the Equalities PSA. Further details of the work of the GEO will be detailed in the departmental report which will be published in due course.

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she plans to take to promote good practice in employment opportunity through the report and list of good employers recently published by the Government. [201393]

Barbara Follett: In their report "Shaping a Fairer Future" (published February 2006) The Women and Work Commission recommended that the Government, with the help of partners like Opportunity Now, should build up a set of exemplar companies who would be prepared to pilot projects to tackle the causes of the gender pay gap.

The Government responded by setting up such a programme, run under contract by Opportunity Now, the gender arm of Business in the Community. A list of 113 exemplar employers was compiled and published as an online report in March 2008.

The Government Equalities Office will continue to work with Opportunity Now and other partners in sharing and disseminating lessons learned from the Exemplar Employers programme. We are presently in discussion with Opportunity Now on next steps.

Prostitution: Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the number of women working as sex workers in the UK whose countries of origin are *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* overseas states; and if she will give a breakdown of the principal countries of origin in each case. [204939]

Barbara Follett: Due to the hidden nature of prostitution, reliable statistics on the numbers involved and their countries of origin are difficult to obtain. Estimates suggest that at any one time in 2003 there were approximately 4,000 victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK. However, no research has been undertaken which would provide either evidence or provide a basis for estimates on the number of women working as sex workers in the UK whose countries of origin are *(a)* other EU member states *(b)* other overseas states.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

DNA: International Cooperation

David Davis: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 387W, on DNA: international cooperation, when the Crown Prosecution Service inquiry into the lost disc containing DNA profiles of Dutch criminals is now expected to be concluded. [204254]

The Solicitor-General *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The report on the inquiry is being published today along with a written ministerial statement.

Public Prosecution Service: Londonderry

Mark Durkan: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made on the *(a)* plans and *(b)* timescale for the opening of the regional office of the Public Prosecution Service in Derry; what the proposed (i) staffing complement and (ii) service areas are; and if she will make a statement. [205592]

The Solicitor-General: The proposed Public Prosecution Service, Derry Northern Regional Office is located at 35 Limavady Road, Londonderry. The building will be a three-storey office building with 30 car parking spaces on a site dedicated to the PPS.

Work commenced on the building shell in January 2008. The programme of work will be completed in September 2008 with the building becoming fully operational in October 2008.

The building will be known as Foyle Chambers and will accommodate 50 PPS staff.

At present the Northern Regional Office is being operated from offices in Coleraine and Ballymena Chambers.

The service areas for Foyle Chambers are Derry, Magherafelt and Limavady.

Public Prosecution Service: Newry

Mark Durkan: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made on the *(a)* plans and *(b)* timescale for the opening of the regional office of the Public Prosecution Service in Newry; and if she will make a statement. [205591]

The Solicitor-General: PPS has identified a suitable site on the Belfast Road, Newry that would enable the PPS to provide a Southern Regional Office that meets PPS office accommodation and car parking requirements within the revised PPS timescale autumn 2009.

Land and Property Services (Valuation) have agreed provisional and outline terms in respect of proposals to lease the building on this Belfast Road site. This agreement is 'Without Prejudice and Subject to Contract' which includes planning permission being granted.

The developer has made a submission to the planners based on the new 'Pre Application Discussion for Strategic Projects and Major Housing, Commercial, Industrial and Public Sector Proposals'. A favourable response has been received which will permit the developer to submit a formal planning application on 21 May 2008. This new fast-tracked planning process anticipates that planning permission could be achieved in August 2008. On receipt of the planning permission the building will take nine to 12 months to become operational.

The Southern Regional Office is presently being sustained from Belfast until the Southern Regional Office is opened in Newry.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will refer to the Serious Fraud Office recent allegations of television broadcaster misconduct in the use of premium rate telephone services in viewer competitions and voting. [205793]

The Solicitor-General: I am aware that four allegations of television broadcaster misconduct have been considered by the SFO, although those referrals did not arise from my Office.

A decision was made by the former director of the SFO, Robert Wardle, not to commence formal investigations into two of these allegations. The remaining two allegations are still undergoing consideration. The director of the SFO will make a decision on these in due course.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Serious Fraud Office plans to investigate the recent cases of television broadcaster misconduct in the use of premium rate telephone services in viewer competitions and voting; and if she will make a statement. [205854]

The Solicitor-General: Four separate allegations of misconduct by television broadcasters have been raised with the SFO since October 2007. A decision was made by the former Director of the SFO, Robert Wardle, not to commence formal investigations into two of these allegations. The remaining two allegations are still undergoing consideration. The Director of the SFO will make a decision on these in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to improve artistic links between the United Kingdom and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [206136]

Margaret Hodge: I am aware that there have been and will be strong artistic links between the UK and Israel and I welcome this. There are no unique barriers to organisations in forming artistic links between our two countries. I have not therefore taken, nor do I plan to take, any special steps to improve artistic links with Israel, over and above those normally in place.

Cultural Heritage: Shipping

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has powers to invoke legal measures to protect historic sea or river vessels where a registered owner does not demonstrate a duty of care. [206676]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The Secretary of State has no such powers in relation to historic sea or river vessels except where they are permanent land-based listed structures. Such vessels may be designated as listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments if they meet relevant criteria.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [204770]

Margaret Hodge: Since 1997 Ministers in DCMS have made the following number of statutory instruments each calendar year.

	Number
1997	27[1]
1998	23
1999	23
2000	19
200	17
2002	31

	Number
2003	28
2004	32
2005	49
2006	58
2007	65
2008	11[2]

[1] Eight prior to 1 May, 19 thereafter.

[2] To 15 May 2008

The number of statutory instruments revoked by Ministers in DCMS since 1997 can be ascertained only at disproportionate cost.

Gambling: Internet

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* other EU member states on the effect of US law on EU business interests in the United States, with particular reference to (i) online gambling companies and (ii) companies providing financial services to the online gambling sector. [206564]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The UK remained in close contact with the European Commission in connection with the negotiation of an agreed compensation package following the US Administration's decision to withdraw from a World Trade Organisation commitment to provide access to the US online gambling market to non-US companies.

The European Commission is now investigating the United States' ban on remote gambling and its enforcement action against UK and European companies for activities conducted in the US as a result of a complaint under the Trade Barriers Regulation made by the UK gambling industry. The UK Government welcome the European Commission's decision to investigate and we await their conclusions with interest.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Indian Government on the effect of US law on the operation of UK businesses in the online gambling sector; and with what other governments outside the EU he has discussed the issue. [206565]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The UK has not had discussions with the Indian Government or other governments outside the EU on the effect of US law on the operation of businesses in the online gambling sector.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what restrictions apply to US companies in the UK online gambling sector; and what assessment he has made of the development of online gambling services in the UK by US companies. [206567]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Only companies that are licensed in the UK, in an EEA state or Gibraltar, or in the jurisdictions permitted by the Secretary of State under section 331 of the Gambling Act 2005—currently the Isle of Man, Alderney and Tasmania—are permitted to advertise online gambling services in the UK.

No US jurisdictions are currently permitted to advertise online gambling services in the UK. That means that no US companies licensed in a US jurisdiction are able to advertise online gambling services here.

The UK Government have not made any assessment of the development of online gambling services in the UK by US companies.

PRIME MINISTER

China: Earthquakes

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Prime Minister what message he sent to the Government of China following the earthquake in Chongqing. [206324]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave at my monthly press conference on 15 May 2008. A transcript is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15580.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dalai Lama

Kate Hoey: To ask the Prime Minister what the reasons are for the choice of venue for his forthcoming meeting with the Dalai Lama. [205882]

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when the Dalai Lama has met the holder of his Office in Downing Street during the past 30 years; [206322]

(2) where he plans to meet the Dalai Lama during his forthcoming visit. [206323]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members' to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Teignbridge (Richard Younger-Ross) at Prime Minister's questions on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1381-82.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Data Protection

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister whether the data held by special advisers are the responsibility of the *(a)* Permanent Secretary of each Government Department or *(b)* Cabinet Secretary for the purposes of the (i) Data Protection Act 1998 and (ii) Freedom of Information Act 2000. [206593]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are subject to the requirements of legislation in the same way as other civil servants.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Education

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with *(a)* the London Development Agency and *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority on the educational legacy of the 2012 Olympic games; and if she will make a statement. [206463]

Tessa Jowell: I meet with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Development Agency (LDA) regularly to discuss a variety of issues, including the legacy of the games.

In addition, the Minister for Schools and I have also appointed Ian Stewart, an independent reviewer, to lead a review into a potential educational legacy at the Olympic stadium. He has been consulting with the ODA and LDA, among other key stakeholders, including community groups, and will report to Ministers at the end of June.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the 2012 Olympic games one planet pavilion will have an educational focus; and if she will make a statement. [206464]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is currently considering the pavilion's content but has confirmed it will include an educational component. LOCOG will consult with the London Development Agency (LDA) and other stakeholders, including the five host boroughs, to ensure that potential legacy applications are taken into account.

WALES

Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office: Co-ordination

8. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has had discussions with the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland on the co-ordination of the work of his Department, the Scotland Office and the Northern Ireland Office. [205957]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have held discussions with both my territorial colleagues reflecting our wish to work closely on matters of common interest.

Post Office Network

9. **Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the post office network in Wales. [205958]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have invested £2 billion in Post Office Ltd. since 1999, and are committed to invest a further £1.7 billion in the network over the next five years.

This Government's proposals will ensure a truly nationwide network and recognise the important social and economic role that post offices play in communities across the country.

Housing Market Trends

10. **Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the effects of trends in the housing market in Wales on the Welsh economy. [205959]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Wales is not immune to the current slowing down in the housing market as seen in the rest of the UK and across the world. We have good reason to remain optimistic about the Welsh economy despite the present challenges facing the global economy.

Children's Commissioners for Wales and England: Co-ordination

11. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the co-ordination of the work of the Children's Commissioners for Wales and England. [205961]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have arranged a meeting with the new children's commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, to discuss a range of issues, including co-ordination with the children's commissioner for England.

I also have regular contact with the deputy children's commissioner for Wales, Maria Battle.

North East Wales: Contribution to UK Economy

12. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the contribution of north-east Wales to the UK economy. [205962]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The continued success of and contribution made by north-east Wales is an important part, not only of the Welsh economy, but of the UK's as a whole.

Joint Ministerial Committee

13. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress has been made in reinvigorating the Joint Ministerial Committee; and if he will make a statement. [205963]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have met the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales, and the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland, to discuss how best to re-establish the committee. We aim to hold a meeting of the Committee before the summer. I believe it offers a way of operating devolution arrangements in the United Kingdom better, for everyone's benefit.

Unemployment

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on levels of unemployment in Wales. [205960]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a wide range of issues, including the employment situation in Wales.

TRANSPORT

Shipping: Safety

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress the Council of Ministers has made on a common framework for the permanent exclusion by member states of vessels in repeated breach of EU safety regulations. [206700]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK already has a framework for restricting vessel access to UK ports which is set out in The Merchant Shipping (Port State Control) Regulations 1995 [SI 1995 No. 3128 as amended] and the associated Merchant Shipping Notice 1775 (M).

The original proposal of the recast of the EU Directive on Port State Control, one of the Third Maritime Safety Package proposals, included provisions to permanently ban vessels which have been detained for a third time following inspection at a Community port. The Council was not persuaded that a permanent ban was proportionate or legally enforceable. It considered that ships which have been banned under the terms of the directive should be allowed back into Community ports once stringent safety criteria, including a further inspection of the ship concerned, have been satisfied.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the progress made by EU member states on implementing the provisions of the Erika II legislative package enabling the competent authorities in member states to prevent ships from setting sail in very bad weather. [206810]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK has implemented these provisions.

Regulation 13 of the Merchant Shipping (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements) Regulations 2004 covers measures to be taken in the event of exceptionally bad weather or sea conditions.

The Government also have procedures in place so that if an incident is reported to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, a counter pollution and response officer and, if necessary, the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP) will be alerted.

The Government have made no assessment of the progress made by other EU member states in implementing these provisions.

Tolls

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the European Commission on the work of the CURACAO User Group; whether she has allocated resources to the project in relation to road pricing schemes; what discussions she has had with the project on advice to local authorities on road pricing; what assessment she has made of the contribution of the project to the development of proposals for road pricing schemes in England; and if she will make a statement. [206343]

Ms Rosie Winterton: CURACAO is a European Commission funded project which aims to co-ordinate research and monitor the results of the implementation of road user charging as a demand management tool in urban areas. The Department has had no direct contact with the Commission about the project, nor allocated funding, but officials have provided some input to the project at a technical level to ITS (university of Leeds) and Transport Travel and Research, two of the three UK-based project partners in CURACAO. The Department has had no discussions with them on our advice to local authorities and has made no assessment of the project.

Transport Appraisal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the methodology used in the New Approach to Transport Appraisal treats a decision by an individual to leave his or her vehicle at home and use public transport as a disbenefit; and if she will take steps to change this attribution. [205161]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The methodology recommended in the "New Approach To Appraisal" (NATA) does not treat a decision by an individual to leave his or her vehicle at home and use public transport as a disbenefit.

Instead, an assumption of appraisal is that a decision of this sort largely reflects the individual comparing the advantages and disadvantages of the form of transport they choose, in terms of journey time, journey costs and, in some circumstances, measures of other journey characteristics such as crowding, and judging there to be an overall 'benefit' through changing from one mode to another.

However, costs and benefits under the NATA methodology are not assessed only from the view of the transport user as there may be further impacts on transport providers, the Government, wider society or the environment. NATA seeks to ensure that all impacts are taken into account to give a complete picture.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 47W, on capital gains tax, if he will estimate the revenue implications of taxing capital gains at the same marginal rates as income tax with indexation from April 2008. [206394]

Jane Kennedy: A reform of this kind would result in a large behavioural response and as such estimates are susceptible to a wide margin of error.

A broad estimate of the eventual steady state impact, taking account of the likely taxpayer response to such a change, is additional receipts in the order of £2 billion a year by comparison with the capital gains tax regime contained in the Finance Bill 2008.

Child Tax Credit Helpline

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long the standard training period for staff joining the Child Tax Credits Helpline service is. [206920]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC operates the tax credits Helpline. This covers both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 683W.

Child Tax Credits

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average it takes for his Department to process an application for child tax credit. [206922]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) aim to pay 60 per cent. of all new Child and Working Tax Credit claims in 15 calendar days and all new claims in 20 calendar days

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1688W, on the Valuation Office, how many households in Wales received a visit from a Valuation Office Agency representative as part of the 2005 council tax revaluation. [204879]

Jane Kennedy: Details as to the number of properties visited by the VOA as part of the 2005 council tax revaluation cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost was of salaries for *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in his Department in each month since May 2005. [200174]

Angela Eagle: Details of the wages and salaries paid by the Department to permanent staff, Ministers and special advisors and other staff are shown in Table 6.1 of the Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06 (HC 1344) and 2006-07 (HC 518). Copies of the documents can be found at:

hm-treasury.gov.uk

A monthly breakdown of the figures could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost would be of reintroducing the 10 pence tax band with effect from the beginning of the 2008-09 financial year. [206575]

Jane Kennedy: Reintroducing the 10p starting rate for non-savings income would cost around £6.7 billion for 2008-09. This estimate assumes the personal allowance had remained at £5,435 and not been increased by £600 as announced by the Chancellor on Tuesday 13 May.

Members: Correspondence

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 12 March from the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham on the small and medium enterprises threshold for the purposes of the research and development tax credit in relation to Allergy Therapeutics in Worthing. [207141]

Angela Eagle: As I believe the hon. Member knows, the Treasury has no record of having received his letter. A copy has been requested and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff of HM Revenue and Customs have had forensic accounting duties in each year since 2001. [206688]

Jane Kennedy: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A large number of HMRC staff have forensic accounting duties in a wide variety of roles.

Shares: Sales Methods

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on illegal share sales by boiler room operations; and if he will make a statement. [206945]

Kitty Ussher: The Chancellor meets senior members of the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of economic and financial issues.

Other Treasury Ministers are also closely engaged with the FSA, other Government departments and law enforcement agencies in discussions on counter-fraud work. An inter-ministerial group met in April, for instance to discuss priorities for the National Fraud Strategic Authority.

Trusts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate how many trusts became resident in the UK as a result of the trust modernisation programme changes effected on 6 April 2007. [206684]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available.

Valuation Office: Surveys

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's most recent staff survey. [202820]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the agency's most recent staff survey has been placed in the Library.

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether requests for TC647 forms are recorded by the Tax Credit Office or HM Revenue and Customs; how many TC647 forms were sent to tax credit claimants in each year since their introduction; and how many claimants have been sent them. [205815]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Requests for TC647 forms are recorded on each individual customer's tax credit record and it is not possible to provide the number of requests.

The number of TC647 forms issued in the last four years was:

	Number of forms TC647 issued
2004-05	58,486
2005-06	60,899
2006-07	11,619
2007-08	1,603

Information is not available for 2003-04.

The marked reduction in the numbers of TC647s issued in 2006-07 and 2007-08 illustrates the improvements made to the award notice from April 2006, which now provide the information tax credits customers need to help them better understand their awards.

This information corrects the figure provided on 29 November 2005, *Official Report,* column 348W

SCOTLAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203852]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has published information about some hospitality events in its annual report for 2008. The Office plans to publish a full list of events in future annual reports. The Secretary of State hosted a total of nine events during financial year 2007-08 and the total cost for these in the last financial year is £28,719.95. The Office does not hold a full list of those guests invited or who attended these events.

DEFENCE

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206803]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All civilian apprenticeships are advanced. In 2006-07, there were 5,326 military apprentices in the Ministry of Defence. There were 1,973 advanced military apprentices, 234 advanced civilian apprentices and 282 advanced apprentices in agencies.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates since 1992 his Department has undertaken studies into the potential damage to hearing from prolonged driving of armoured vehicles. [201579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been no studies specifically into hearing damage from prolonged driving of armoured vehicles. Noise exposure assessments are however undertaken and suitable protection provided.

Cyprus

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 48WS, on UN Forces (Cyprus), what the cap badge will be of the 250 reservists. [206642]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Individuals will be selected from within 2 Division, based largely upon HQ 32 Signal Regiment. The process of selection and training of reservists to serve on the next deployment for Operation Tosca with the UN in Cyprus will culminate in full notice of call-out (which is a minimum of 28 days) prior to their mobilisation. This will not need to take place until later this year, and until then, I cannot confirm which cap badges will be worn. When the units deploy they will all wear the UN blue beret and UN cap badge.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201723]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days are not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 87 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 390, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental Publications

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the Ministry of Defence quarterly performance reports from each year since 1997. [206916]

Des Browne: The Department has published an annual performance report (since 2002-03 the annual report and accounts) setting out its end year performance since 1996-97. Copies are available in the Library of the House. The Department has also published quarterly performance reports on its website since the fourth quarter of 2003-04. These can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/ModPSASDAandTechnicalNotes.htm

Where these have comprised the formal autumn or spring performance reports, copies were automatically placed in the Library of the House at the time of publication. I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House of any quarterly reports that have been published on the Department's website but not previously placed in the Library.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of the helicopter fleet is *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose, broken down by (i) service and (ii) helicopter type. [206153]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number and type of helicopters used by the Royal Navy, Army Air Corps and Royal Air Force which are in the Forward fleet and considered fit for purpose are detailed in the following table. Forward fleet aircraft are those that are available to the front-line command for operational and training purposes (i.e. those not in depth maintenance). Aircraft defined as fit for purpose are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

Helicopter type	*In service (total fleet)*	*Average number of aircraft in Forward fleet*	*Percentage of total fleet in Forward fleet*	*Average number of aircraft fit for purpose (FFP)*	*FFP as a percentage of total fleet*	*FFP percentage of Forward fleet*
Royal Navy						
Sea King Mk 4/6c	42	31	74	15	36	48
Lynx Mk 3/8	63	42	67	29	46	69
Merlin Mk 1	38	24	63	20	53	83
Sea King Mk 5	15	11	73	7	47	64
Sea King Mk 7	13	9	69	7	54	78
Army Air Corps						
Apache AH Mk 1	67	51	76	24	36	47
Lynx Mk 7/9	96	54	56	31	32	57
Gazelle Mk 1	67	45	67	n/a	n/a	n/a
Augusta A109	4	4	100	4	100	100
Royal Air Force						
Chinook Mk 2/2a	40	29	73	19	48	66
Puma Mk 1	38	23	61	16	42	70
Merlin Mk 3/3a	27	17	63	10	37	59
SAR Sea King Mk 3/3a*	25	17	68	12	48	71

The figures shown are the average for the month of April 2008 (with the exception of the search and rescue Sea King Mk 3/3a data, which cover March 2008 due to technical problems). The number of helicopters fit for purpose will vary from day to day due, primarily, to routine maintenance requirements. Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available.

Military Bases: Long Marston

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Royal Engineer Depot at Long Marston was sold; what price was received; and whether there was a development uplift clause in the sale contract under which a portion of any gain in value from a grant of planning permission is to be paid to the public purse. [203654]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 6 May 2008]*: The Central Engineer Resource Depot was sold in November 2004 for just over £11 million.

The contract contains a clawback clause whereby if enhanced development worth more than £12 million is given planning approval within 20 years of the date of sale, the Ministry of Defence will receive 50 per cent. of any uplift in value.

Navy: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on whose authority a Royal Navy maintenance team was recently sent to Dubai; for what reasons it did not complete its scheduled job; and what the cost was. [206903]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Based on the information provided, I am unable to identify the occasion to which the hon. Member refers. Should he wish to write to me with more details, I will investigate this matter further.

Radioactive Wastes

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many used fuel cores from naval reactors are stored at *(a)* the Naval Reactor Test Establishment at Dounreay, *(b)* Devonport Dockyard, *(c)* Rosyth Dockyard and *(d)* Sellafield. [206529]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security. Ultimately, all used fuel cores will be stored at Sellafield.

RAF Weston on the Green

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to sell RAF Weston on the Green to Parkridge Holdings if proposals for the Weston Otmoor eco-town proceed; and if he will make a statement. [203800]

Derek Twigg: Defence Estates officials have held informal exploratory meetings with Parkridge Holdings.

No undertakings have been given and further discussions would be necessary were Weston-on-the-Green to be included on the final shortlist of proposed eco-towns.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205044]

Derek Twigg: Main Building, Old War Office and St. Georges Court are smokefree. No smoking shelters have been constructed at these sites.

UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his speech delivered at the launch of the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation at Lancaster House on 8 May 2008. [207046]

Des Browne: The launch of the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation took place at Lancaster House on 8 April 2008. In the event, I spoke without notes, loosely based around a prepared speech, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department met the civil service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204712]

Mr. Woodward: The following tables set out how the Northern Ireland Office has performed against the civil service diversity targets set out in page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. The Northern Ireland Office continues to work closely with Cabinet Office colleagues to achieve a diverse civil service, representative of the communities we serve.

SCS—Diversity

Women	*Proportion*	*Target*	*Percentage Shortfall*
Top management			
March 2008	16.7	30	13.3
All SCS			
March 2008	36.4	37	0.6
Ethnicity			
March 2008	2.3	4	1.7
Disability			
March 2008	0	3.2	3.2

SCS feeder grades

	Proportion	*Target*	*Percentage Shortfall*
Women			
March 2008	45.7	47.5	1.8
Ethnicity			
March 2008	0	4	4
Disability			
March 2008	3.2	3.2	0

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals were sentenced to a term of imprisonment in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [206894]

Paul Goggins: Data relating to the number of foreign nationals (i.e. individuals recorded as citizens of countries other than the UK or the Republic of Ireland) sentenced to immediate custody are only available for 2006. During this period there were 35 individuals recorded as foreign nationals who were sentenced to immediate custody in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals were sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 12 months or more in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [206895]

Paul Goggins: Data relating to the number of foreign nationals (i.e. individuals recorded as citizens of countries other than the UK or the Republic of Ireland) sentenced to immediate custody are only available for 2006. During this period there were five individuals recorded as foreign nationals who were sentenced to a term of custody of 12 months or more in Northern Ireland.

Probation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what resources he is providing for the Probation Service of Northern Ireland following the entry into force of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008. [206816]

Paul Goggins: The outcome of the CSR 2007 exercise provides the following resources to PBNI, and takes account of the changes arising from the Criminal Justice Order 2008:

		£ million
	Programme	*Capital*
200-09	16.778	3
2009-10	18.597	1.798
2010-11	19.997	1.803

Public Inquiries

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 625-6W, on public inquiries, what the cost of *(a)* the Saville Inquiry, *(b)* each of the other ongoing public inquiries in Northern Ireland and *(c)* the Historic Enquiries Team investigations was in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [205424]

Mr. Woodward: The costs for the last six months for which figures are available for each public inquiry under way in Northern Ireland are shown in the following tables.

The Robert Hamill inquiry

	£
2007-08	*Spend*
October	237,869
November	339,931
December	260,159
January	330,257
February	362,068
March	1,175,066
Total	2,705,350

The Rosemary Nelson inquiry

	£
2007-08	*Spend*
October	1,10[illegible],919
November	1,244,301
December	65,047
January	1,139,430
February	805,001
March	1,340,937
Total	5,698,636

The Billy Wright inquiry

	£
2007-08	*Spend*
October	-385,450
November	750,679
December	566,304
January	491,246
February	777,436
March	1,710,872
Total	3,911,088

These figures remain provisional until the 2007-08 financial year accounts are completed.

The Bloody Sunday inquiry

	£
2007-08	*Actuals cash*
October	234,884
November	462,529
December	239,949
January	453,054
February	599,295
March	365,839
Total	2,355,549

The Bloody Sunday Inquiry figures are cash spend.

The Historical Enquiries Team

				£
2007-08	*PSNI HET Spend*	*FSNI HET Spend*	*OPONI HET Spend*	*Total*
October	489,000	28,669	63,000	580,669
November	476,000	102,932	69,000	647,932
December	388,000	13,912	74,000	475,912
January	686,000	22,000	56,000	764,000
February	919,000	32,066	62,000	1,013,066
March	228,000	30,588	66,000	324,588
Total	3,186,000	230,167	390,000	3,806,167

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether a person with a conviction for membership of a proscribed paramilitary organisation in Northern Ireland has been granted a licence to run a private security firm since 1998. [203659]

Paul Goggins: To establish whether a licence has been granted to any individual with a conviction for membership of a proscribed paramilitary organisation would incur disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders: Females

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many females between the ages of 10 and 17 years were prosecuted in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [206918]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number of females aged 10 to 17 years prosecuted in Northern Ireland for the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest available years). If a person is prosecuted more than once on separate occasions in the same year, each separate prosecution will be included in the figures.

Number of females aged 10 to 17 years prosecuted 2004-06

	Number prosecuted
2004	242
2005	236
2006	232

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what new resources she plans to make available to local authorities to assist the delivery of extended community empowerment under the proposed Community Empowerment Housing and Regeneration Bill, as set out in summary on pages 66 to 68 of the Government's draft legislative programme, Cm 7372. [206578]

John Healey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 5 March that she would publish a White Paper on empowerment in the summer. On 14 May the Prime Minister announced that the Government intend to introduce a Bill on Community Empowerment, Housing and Economic Regeneration in the fourth Session. Any net additional costs for local authorities in England arising in this context will be funded in full.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) alleged breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205904]

Mr. Dhanda: No such breaches, or instances of inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data, have been identified in either the central Department or its Agencies during the past three years.

Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 10 local authorities have the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest levels of deprivation; and if she will make a statement. [205992]

John Healey: The Indices of Deprivation do not provide a single overall measure of deprivation at the local authority level thus making it difficult to identify a single list of the most or least deprived authorities.

Homelessness: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce youth homelessness; [206523]

(2) what recent steps the Government have taken to work with schools to prevent youth homelessness. [206524]

Mr. Iain Wright: In November 2006, my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State announced a package of measures to further prevent and tackle youth homelessness. This included: a commitment that by 2010, no 16 or 17 year olds should be placed in bed and breakfast accommodation by a local authority under the homelessness legislation, except in an emergency; improving access to family mediation; and establishing supported lodgings schemes for young people across the country. Since then significant progress has been made:

> 6390 young people were accepted as homeless in 2006-07 (young people are 16-17 year olds, or 18-20 year old care leavers). This is down from 8350 in 2005-06.
>
> Around 530 16 and 17 year olds were placed in bed and breakfast by housing authorities at the end of December 2008, down from around 1000 in September 2006.

We have provided significant investment for homelessness prevention. This includes £200 million homelessness grant funding for local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next three years. This represents the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services. We are aware that some local authorities will use their grant to target schools making pupils aware of the impact of homelessness, For example, the London borough of Lambeth will be using some of their homelessness grant towards the establishment of an educational trust to develop their innovative, young people led homelessness prevention resource, entitled 'The Prodigals' into a national preventative programme.

We established the National Youth Homelessness scheme (NYHS) jointly led by Centrepoint and YMCA England. NYHS, has established nine regional centres of excellence to offer practical examples to neighbouring authorities of effective service models, and a website and knowledge base to offer accessible information and practical initiatives on preventing and tackling youth homelessness.

Through this Department's specialist advisers on youth homelessness, NYHS has supported local authorities to achieve these reductions in homelessness acceptances amongst young people and the use of bed and breakfast accommodation via four workstreams: local authority strategy and partnership; homelessness prevention; accommodation and support pathways; and addressing wider needs.

On 9 May 2008, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families launched good practice guidance on joint working between housing authorities and children's services to prevent and respond to homelessness and the wider support needs of young people.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the capability of UK manufacturers to supply technologies required to *(a)* construct and *(b)* operate zero-carbon homes. [206369]

Caroline Flint: The Renewables Advisory Board, an independent, non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has been considering the implications of the zero carbon policy for the supply of microgeneration technologies, including the opportunities for UK industry. Its report, "The Role of Onsite Energy Generation in Delivering Zero Carbon Homes: A Study" can be found at:

www.renewables-advisory-board.org.uk/vBulletin/showthread.php?p=123#post123

Through the 2016 Task Force, the Department will continue to work with industry to identify issues which may affect the capacity of industry to respond to the demands for zero carbon homes.

Housing: Economic Situation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the credit crunch on *(a)* the borrowing power of housing associations and *(b)* the building of affordable and social housing. [206050]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The Housing Corporation has analysed the borrowing capacity of the sector to deliver housing associations' current business plans. It published its assessment of the housing association funding and development market on 12 May 2008. The "Affordable Homes Developers Report" is available on their website at:

www.housingcorp.gov.uk

The corporation believes that the ability to obtain finance at a reasonable price is not an immediate concern for housing associations and the longer-term outlook for private finance for affordable housing remains positive. The Department and the Housing Corporation continue to liaise with lenders and their representatives to discuss the regulatory and funding environment and its implications for lenders in the housing association sector.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: EC Law

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regard the Infrastructure Planning Commission will have to the provisions of the European Directives on *(a)* Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe and *(b)* Environmental Noise in making decisions on major infrastructure projects. [206447]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1443-444W.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Public Appointments

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regard she will have to relevant *(a)* expertise and *(b)* knowledge in making appointments to the proposed Infrastructure Planning Commission. [206446]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1444W.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government paid to local authorities as a landfill tax rebate in each year since 2003. [204519]

John Healey: Local authorities' costs incurred on their waste management responsibilities are funded mainly through Formula Grant (Revenue Support Grant and National Non Domestic Rates) in relation to household waste and mainly through fees and charges in relation to commercial and industrial waste. In determining the local government settlement, the Government took into account pressures on local government spending, including their landfill tax liability and the increased costs resulting from the rise in the standard rate escalator from 2008-09. The Government have provided significant investment in local services since taking office and by 2010-11 will have provided an overall increase in Government grant of 45 per cent. since 1997.

Local Authorities: Fees and Charges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to assist local authorities to meet the increased fees payable in public law care proceedings. [206756]

John Healey: As I made clear in the debate on the Local Government Finance Report 2008-09 on 4 February this year, *Official Report*, column 729, the spending pressure on councils as a result of the transfer to local authorities of the full funding for family law cases, is included within the Formula Grant for authorities. Overall Government grant to local authorities increases by 1.5 per cent. a year in real terms over the CSR07 period, taking the investment in local services since we took office to 45 per cent. in real terms up to 2010-11.

Local Government Finance: Social Services

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms her Department has in place to monitor local authorities' expenditure of funding allocated through local involvement networks for social care. [206248]

John Healey: The level of the local authority contribution to the local involvement networks (LINks) is a matter for individual councils. Government funding for local authorities' responsibilities in this area has been added into Area Based Grant which is administered by my Department. Area based Grant is a non-ringfenced general grant and as such there are no requirements for local authorities to report separately on how the grant is utilised.

Local Government Task Force: Pay

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the expenses of board members of the Local Government Task Force. [206917]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not hold information on the expenses of board members of the Local Government Task Force.

Regional Planning and Development: East of England

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason hon. Members for constituencies in the East of England were not informed of the *(a)* launch and *(b)* publication of the East of England plan until the morning of publication; and if she will make a statement. [206882]

Mr. Dhanda: A revision to a regional spatial strategy should be published through the laying of a ministerial statement in the House. This publication statement was laid in the House at 9:30am on Monday 12 May and an event to launch the East of England plan was held in Letchworth, Hertfordshire, at noon on Monday 12 May. However, I understand that hon. Members in the East of England are very interested in how their constituencies are affected by the policies in the plan.

With that in mind, the Government Office for the East of England (GO-East) made every effort to ensure that hon. Members were invited to attend the event on Monday 12 May. GO-East officials first telephoned the offices of all hon. Members for the East of England on Friday 9 May to invite members to hear "a regionally significant announcement on planning in the East of England". This was followed with an email to those offices which were not contactable by telephone.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which persons were advised of the date of *(a)* launch and *(b)* publication of the East of England plan prior to 12 May 2008; who was invited to the launch; when the invitation to each was sent; and if she will make a statement. [206883]

Mr. Dhanda: A revision to a regional spatial strategy should be published through the laying of a ministerial statement in the House. This publication statement was laid in the House at 9:30am on Monday 12 May and an event to launch the East of England plan was held in Letchworth, Hertfordshire, at noon on Monday 12 May.

The Government Office for the East of England (GO-East) invited hon. Members for the East of England and representatives of all local authorities in the region, the East of England Regional Assembly, the East of England Development Agency, the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency, Natural England, English Heritage and local delivery vehicles to attend an event with "a regionally significant announcement on planning in the East of England", GO-East telephoned all the invitees on Friday 9 May.

Social Rented Housing: Evictions

Sir George Young: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many possession actions were brought by registered social landlords (RSLs) in England under the Housing Act 1988 in each year since 2000; and what percentage this total comprised in each year of the number of possession actions brought by RSLs on the grounds of rent arrears. [203296]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of court orders for possession (including suspended orders) granted to registered social landlords (RSLs) by the county courts in England since 2003 and also a breakdown of orders by the broad grounds for possession as recorded in court databases.

However, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of possessions resulting from specific legislation because this information is not collected by county court administrative systems.

Orders for possession (including suspended orders) granted to registered social landlords (RSLs) by county courts in England, 2003-2007

	Total possession orders granted to RSLs	Grounds for possession			
		Arrears	Antisocial behaviour	Arrears and antisocial behaviour	Other
2003	45,133	44,035	162	61	875
2004	44,260	43,433	139	60	628
2005	41,907	41,129	138	66	574
2006[1]	39,023	38,290	108	38	587
2007[1]	36,390	35,778	126	61	425

[1] Certain figures for 2006 and 2007 have been estimated. This follows the rollout of the Possession Claims On- Line (PCOL) system in late 2006, which has affected the availability of detailed information about possession claims in central departmental databases.

Notes:

1. This table presents figures for RSLs only and excludes orders that could be identified as having been made by local authorities. However, this process relied on searching for known local authority titles in the claimant name field, and there may therefore be some inaccuracies as a result of typing errors, use of abbreviations, etc.
2. The figures exclude orders obtained using the accelerated procedure.

Data are not available for earlier years. The figures include all orders relating to 'social landlords' except those identified as having been granted to local authorities. They do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Suspended possession orders allow the tenant to remain in their home as long as they keep up repayment of arrears. If the terms are not met then the landlord can obtain an eviction warrant without the need for a further court hearing.

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 20 foreign nationalities obtained the most social housing tenancies in each year since information on nationality in regard to tenancies began to be collected; and how many foreign nationals obtained such tenancies in each of those years. [206259]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1800W.

A question on nationality was first introduced to the Continuous Recording of Lettings form (CORE) for the 2006-07 data collection period. From this information it is possible to identify separately new tenants who are UK nationals and nationals of each of the A8 Eastern European accession states. It is not possible to separately identify the nationality of tenants recorded as from "other European Economic Area countries" or from "any other countries".

Due to gaps in local authority data, the Department will not be making overall estimates for the number of new social housing lettings made to each of the recorded nationalities.

However, information provided by Registered Social Landlords during 2006-07 on tenant's nationality can be found on the CORE website at:

www.core.ac.uk

in table 6 of the 'CORE Annual Digest for Housing Associations 2006-07'.

Similar information for those local authorities who did provide returns during 2006-07 is also available in table 6 of the 'CORE Annual Digest for Local Authorities 2006-07'. It should however be noted that not all local authorities provided information during 2006-07 and for those that did, not all provided complete information. As a result the local authority information is not complete across England and should not be used to provide a national estimate.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1969W, on Admiralty House, what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* washer dryer, *(b)* tumble dryer and *(c)* fridge freezer purchased for Lord Malloch-Brown's ministerial residence; and what the energy efficiency rating was of each appliance. [205512]

Meg Munn: The cost (including value added tax) to supply, install and take away the old appliance and energy efficiency rating for the appliances were as follows:

washer dryer—£736.02—energy rating B;
tumble dryer—£366.60—energy rating C; and
fridge freezer—£786.78—energy rating A.

Asylum

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the length of time an individual accepted for the Gateway resettlement programme will wait before resettlement; and whether they will receive financial assistance from his Department between acceptance on to the programme and resettlement. [205908]

David Miliband: The length of time between acceptance by the UK Border Agency and resettlement can vary. Accepted refugees are moved to the UK in groups once a receiving local authority has agreed to accommodate them. Therefore movement times vary according to the voluntary participation by each local authority.

Staff being considered for resettlement under the Gateway programme will be provided with financial assistance to allow them to support themselves during the screening process in a third country.

Eritrea: Refugees

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the safety of refugees returned to Eritrea. [204341]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Conditions in Eritrea are continuously monitored from a wide range of reliable sources including intergovernmental organisations (such as the UN), governmental sources (including Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts abroad) and human rights organisations (for example Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch). This information is published in Country of Origin Information (COI) reports on the Home Office website. The latest COI report on Eritrea was published in February 2008 and can be found at the following link:

http://w ww.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Iraqis formerly employed by the British government are excluded from resettlement under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme when they do not qualify as refugees under the 1951 Convention. [205909]

David Miliband: I refer to my statement to Parliament on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS. To be eligible for resettlement under the Gateway Protection Programme, former staff must be recognised as refugees by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which occupations constitute a similarly skilled or professional role necessitating the regular use of written or spoken English for those Iraqis formerly employed by the British Government as interpreters in Iraq. [205910]

David Miliband: Staff assessing applications for assistance under the scheme treat each case on its merits, based on the roles or duties of the individual concerned while employed with us. Some employing Departments, such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development, employ or have employed local staff who are not specifically designated as interpreters, but who operate alongside UK-based colleagues in skilled or professional roles which require the regular use of English and may involve some interpretation or translation duties. We do not, however, maintain an exhaustive list of occupations that would necessarily qualify or disqualify an individual, but seek to make fair and reasonable judgments which meet both the letter and the spirit of the relevant criterion.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Iraqi citizens *(a)* serving and *(b)* employed formerly by the British Government in Iraq are eligible for one of the places set aside under the UK's Gateway refugee resettlement programme. [205915]

David Miliband: I refer to my written statement to Parliament on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS. Provision for up to 600 places has been made within the Gateway programme over the next two years for staff and their dependants who meet the criteria. The 600 spaces are open to both former and serving staff (including dependants) as defined by the scheme. In practice, however, we expect most serving staff who are eligible and wish to come to the UK to avail themselves of exceptional leave outside the immigration rules and travel directly to the UK from Iraq.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether former Iraqi employees of the British Government who have been rejected by the Gateway programme will be offered a one-off package of financial assistance. [205916]

David Miliband: If an individual who had been assessed as eligible for assistance under the scheme were subsequently determined not to be eligible for resettlement in the UK under the Gateway programme, in principle there would be no obstacle to that individual receiving the one-off package of financial assistance instead. We would, however, need to consider carefully the circumstances of the case, in particular the reasons for ineligibility under Gateway.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether former Iraqi interpreters and their families accepted onto the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme will receive the package of financial assistance available to those being considered under the Gateway refugee resettlement programme. [205917]

David Miliband: I refer to my written statement to Parliament on 30 October 2007, *Official Report* columns 30-33WS. Financial support is provided to all those staff who are considered for resettlement under the Gateway programme specifically in order to allow them to support themselves during the screening process in a third country. This is separate from, and less than, the one-off package of financial assistance offered to all staff as an alternative to resettlement in the UK.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long Iraqi interpreters accepted on to the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme have waited on average before applications under the Gateway programme are determined. [205918]

David Miliband: There are a number of stages in the process of considering applications from former Iraqi locally engaged (LE) staff for resettlement under the Gateway programme. Applicants must first be assessed as eligible in principle for assistance under the LE staff assistance scheme. Those who are still in Iraq then need to move to a third country, a process which involves obtaining the consent of the country concerned, and then be screened by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to determine whether they should be recognised as refugees in need of resettlement. Finally, they are screened by the UK Border Agency for admission to the UK under Gateway. The length of time needed for each of these stages can vary according to the circumstances of each case.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many former Iraqi employees have been admitted to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme. [205924]

David Miliband: No former staff, as defined by the scheme, have yet been admitted to the UK for resettlement. The UK Border Agency is working with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to process the first group of staff who have moved to a third country to undergo the screening process.

The first group of serving staff and their families (three principal applicants and 15 dependants) were welcomed to the UK in April under the scheme with indefinite leave to enter, outside the Immigration Rules.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applicants under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme were awaiting determination of their applications for resettlement at the latest date for which figures are available. [205925]

David Miliband: Applications for assistance under the scheme are assessed in line with the eligibility criteria which are set out in my statement to Parliament on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS. Once applicants have been informed they are eligible they declare which type of assistance they would like. At 8 May there were 80 applications where a decision on eligibility had not yet been taken.

Eligible applicants who choose the opportunity to be resettled in the UK under the Gateway programme must undergo screening by both the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, to determine that they qualify as a refugee under the 1951 Convention, and by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to ensure that any individual who might pose a threat to the UK, or whose presence here is undesirable, is prevented from entering the country. Eligible serving staff (as defined under the scheme) who opt for exceptional leave to enter the UK directly also need to undergo screening by UKBA. At 8 May, 185 principal applicants were being considered under these processes.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the degree of risk faced by former Iraqi employees is relevant to *(a)* admittance to the locally employed staff assistance scheme and *(b)* the determination of who should be allocated a resettlement place. [205926]

David Miliband: Eligibility for assistance is determined by whether the applicant meets the objective criteria which I announced on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS and 30 October, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS. These do not include the degree of risk faced by an individual. But the introduction of the scheme was grounded in a recognition that the circumstances in which our Iraqi locally engaged staff have served have been uniquely difficult.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Iraqi nationals who are serving employees of the British Government in Iraq who apply for resettlement under the locally employed staff assistance scheme are accorded priority over Iraqi former employees. [205927]

David Miliband: It is our general policy to process applications for assistance under the scheme from former and serving staff on a first come first served basis. Neither group is given priority over the other.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many places have been allocated to date under the locally employed staff assistance scheme for Iraqi refugees in third countries. [205928]

David Miliband: We have received around 20 applications for assistance under the scheme from staff in third countries that have been assessed as eligible. To qualify for consideration for resettlement to the UK under the Gateway programme, former staff must by definition first be recognised by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as refugees in need of resettlement.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether dependants of successful applicants to the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme will count towards the total of 600 places on the scheme. [205929]

David Miliband: I refer to my written statement to Parliament on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30WS-33WS. The 600 Gateway places are for both former staff and their dependants.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria his Department uses to prioritise applications received under the locally employed staff assistance scheme. [205930]

David Miliband: Our general policy is to treat applications for assistance under the scheme on a first come first served basis. However, we are willing to consider expediting applications where there are specific reasons for doing so.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the management of applicants who qualify for the Gateway programme but apply after the 600 places on the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme have been allocated. [205931]

David Miliband: There is no indication at this stage that the 600 places that have been allocated under Gateway over the next two years will be oversubscribed.

Employing Departments and the UK Border Agency are carefully monitoring the number of staff who are eligible and the option they have chosen. Current statistics show that over half of former staff eligible for assistance have opted for the financial package of assistance.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications have been received under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme; how many have been rejected; and how many have been accepted. [205932]

David Miliband: Our latest figures (at 8 May) show that we have received 1,138 applications for assistance under the scheme. Of those, 503 of our former and current staff have been assessed as eligible for assistance and 555 have been assessed as ineligible. A decision is pending in the remaining 80 cases.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of those former employees of the British Government in Iraq accepted under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme have opted for the Gateway resettlement programme. [205933]

David Miliband: At 8 May, 383 former staff had been assessed as eligible for assistance under the scheme. Of those, 158 have asked to be considered for resettlement via the Gateway Programme.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the time required to process and determine all applications under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme. [205934]

David Miliband: Staff across Government are working assiduously to ensure applications are processed and eligible staff receive assistance as rapidly as is practicable. In many cases eligibility can be assessed very quickly but in some cases more information may be required from applicants or checks may be required to substantiate individual claims, particularly if staff left our employ some time ago, before effective decisions can be taken.

Piracy

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department issued to *(a)* UK-registered and *(b)* Royal Navy ships operating in or passing through areas where there is a risk of piracy on (i) intervention in and (ii) taking active steps to prevent acts of piracy in the five years prior to the transfer of responsibility for the issue to other Departments. [206886]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* Consistent with past practice, it is for the Ministry of Defence to give guidance and instruction to commanders of Royal Naval vessels and for the Department for Transport to give advice to masters of merchant ships registered in the UK.

Sudan: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the safety of non-Arab ethnic Darfuris in Khartoum. [204336]

Mr. Byrne: Conditions in Sudan are continuously monitored from a wide range of reliable sources including intergovernmental organisations (such as the UN), governmental sources (including Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts abroad) and human rights organisations (for example, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch). This information is published in Country of Origin Information (COI) reports on the Home Office website. The latest COI report on Sudan was published in February 2008 and can be found at the following link: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html and is available in the Library of the House.

UN Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which people have been nominated by the Government for the UN Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women since 1982; and if he will make a statement. [204965]

Meg Munn: The Government have not nominated any candidates to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) since 1982.

The UK strongly supports CEDAW and believes that an effective treaty monitoring body is one of the best mechanisms to promote and protect the human rights of women around the world. We also welcome the positive contribution that other nationals from UN member states have to make in strengthening UN bodies and promoting gender equality internationally.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Malaria

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to the public purse will be of the provision of the recently announced 20 million bed nets to tackle malaria in Africa; what the cost per bed bet is; what estimate he has made of the expenditure that will be incurred in *(a)* administering the programme and *(b)* distributing the bed nets; whether the Government will meet all the associated costs; and from what budget such funding will be drawn. [206672]

Gillian Merron: On the basis of current prices the Department for International Development (DFID) anticipates that the total costs for the 20 million bed nets over the three-year period 2008-10 will be in the region of £90 million. This estimate is based on a bed net cost of around £2.50 and a further £2 per net for costs of programme administration, distribution and delivery. DFID will support delivery through its country programmes.

In some countries the overhead and delivery costs may be met by other organisations or the recipient Government. The UK's contribution is additional to its contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and UNITAID which should play a central role in supporting provision of bed nets and other essential health commodities and drugs. We also look to these organisations to play a catalytic role in pushing down on prices.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which individuals and organisations were consulted prior to the Prime Minister's announcement of the provision of 20 million bed nets to tackle malaria in Africa; and what *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's role was in the development of the policy. [206673]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) consulted several organisations prior to the Prime Minister's announcement on the provision of 20 million bed nets, including Malaria No More, experts at UNICEF and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Simultaneously DFID sought the views of its health advisers based in country offices in Africa and Asia.

Responsibility in Whitehall for UK support to developing countries in responding to malaria rests with DFID. The Prime Minister's office was consulted throughout. The Delivery Unit was not involved in the development of the policy.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations his Department plans to work with in distributing bed nets to tackle malaria in Africa; what steps his Department plans to take to ensure efficient delivery; who will determine where the bed nets are to be distributed and on what criteria; which countries he expects to be the primary beneficiaries; and according to what timetable delivery will take place. [206674]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) will work with a range of partners to ensure bed nets are distributed and delivered effectively. We will work to strengthen recipient government systems for delivering bed nets. Decisions on where the bed nets will be distributed and on what criteria, as well as the role of partners such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, will be based on country needs and will be made in-country by DFID's country programmes.

Delivery will be monitored in accordance with DFID's standard arrangements. We expect the countries that will benefit from UK-funded bed nets shall include Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Congo, and Mozambique. The timetable for delivery over the period 2008-10 will be determined by the individual countries' needs and capacity and the most efficient means of delivery.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206796]

Gillian Merron: There are no apprenticeships or advanced apprenticeships in the Department for International Development. The Department has no associated agencies.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any officials in his Department were disciplined or dismissed for *(a)* breaches of data protection requirements and *(b)* inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205897]

Gillian Merron: In the last three years, the Department for International Development (DFID) disciplined or dismissed *(a)* no staff for breaches of data protection requirements and *(b)* fewer than five staff for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data, with all action taking place in 2006-07. Due to the small number, a breakdown by number, employment status and outcome is not made public on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment in his Department there were in each month since May 2005. [199550]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides employment statistics to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Prior to 2006, employment numbers were available only on an annual basis and from then on were collected quarterly.

Details of the available published DFID staffing statistics for permanent civil service employees, and temporary workers, in DFID from 2005 are contained in the following table.

Month/year	*Permanent civil service employees*	*Temporary workers (i.e. fixed-term civil service employees on contracts of 12 months or less)*	*Total*
March 2005	1880	0	1880
March 2006	1800	0	1800
June 2006	1780	0	1780
September 2006	1740	0	1740
December 2006	1750	10	1760
March 2007	1710	10	1720
June 2007	1720	10	1730
September 2007	1670	0	1670
December 2007	1660	0	1660
March 2008	1610	0	1610

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10

The definition of temporary workers follows the ONS definition which states that employees with fixed term contracts of 12 months or less should be regarded as temporary employees.

In response to the question about the numbers of our non-civil service posts, DFID employs staff appointed in country (SAIC) who are recruited locally to work in our network of over 50 offices overseas on local terms and conditions of service. The details of our SAIC staff are shown in the following table:

Month/year	*Total*
March 2005	989
March 2006	933
June 2006	899
September 2006	881
December 2006	882
March 2007	865
June 2007	837
September 2007	846
December 2007	854
March 2008	834

Prior to October 2007 there were no central records of agency workers within DFID so we are unable to provide historical numbers. Details of the centrally managed agency workers from October 2007 to March 2008 are shown in the following table.

	Number
October	26
November	27
December	34
January	38
February	49
March	54

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205838]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Consultation is an integral function of many aspects of the Department for International Development's (DFID) policy, corporate and operational work. This includes both the funding of consultation exercises and decisions about the most appropriate consultation mechanisms to be applied.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206218]

Gillian Merron: Participation and consultation is an integral function of many aspects of the Department for International Development's (DFID) policy, corporate and operational work. Disaggregating these elements of work would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205180]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £146,090 on translation and interpretation services during 2007-08. The following table details the overall costs broken down by language.

Translation and interpretation services

Languages	*Cost (£)*
Albanian	11,875
Arabic	2,812
Armenian	1,227
Bangla	341
Cambodian	25
English	21,614
French	30,605
Italian	231
Kinyarwand	559
Nepal	130
Portuguese	10,239
Romanian	210
Russian	2,977
Sign Language	17,262
Spanish	29,816
Urdu	11,648
Vietnamese	4,521
Total	146,090

Other translation or interpretational costs may have been incurred but cannot be separately identified; for example, where translation is a small component within a larger project.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on his Department's *(a)* expenditure and *(b)* policy on tackling HIV/AIDS in the developing world. [204720]

Gillian Merron: A public consultation on updating the Government's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world was launched in May 2007. The Department for International Development (DFID) received over 90 submissions in direct response to this consultation.

Since June 2007 DFID has received over 50,000 letters, postcards and e-mails from members of the public about various aspects of AIDS policy and expenditure. DFID Ministers have also received more than 700 letters from MPs writing on behalf of constituents and other interested groups.

Disaster Relief

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what performance indicators his Department uses to measure the effectiveness of its response in providing emergency relief aid following a natural disaster; and if he will make a statement. [206336]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) funds organisations that subscribe and adhere to, as far as is practicable, internationally accepted standards of humanitarian assistance and good practice including the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response laid out by the Sphere Project. The standards relate to:

1. Participation
2. Initial assessment
3. Response
4. Targeting
5. Monitoring
6. Evaluation
7. Aid worker competencies and responsibilities
8. Supervision, management and support of personnel.

Each of the above standards contains minimum standards, key indicators and guidance notes. More information can be found at

www.sphereproject.org

DFID receives reporting and monitors the activities of its partners in meeting standards.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with which companies his Department has contracts to supply air freight services in response to humanitarian needs caused by natural disasters; and if he will make a statement. [206337]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Hanover Aviation Ltd was recently awarded a contract by the Department for International Development (DFID) to provide Aviation Brokerage Services to DFID and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). This followed their success in a tendering exercise conducted under EU Procurement Rules.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with which companies his Department has a contract or contracts to supply emergency relief including food, waste purification and tents in response to humanitarian needs caused by natural disasters; and if he will make a statement. [206338]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) maintains a stockpile of emergency relief supplies. Where the necessary supplies are not available from the stockpile, DFID procures them in accordance with EU procurement directives. DFID does not have long-term agreements with any providers of relief supplies.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what performance measures his Department includes in contracts with companies supplying and freighting UK Government emergency aid relief following natural disasters; and if he will make a statement. [206347]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Each contract issued by the Department for International Development (DFID) follows best practice procurement processes and includes individual performance targets. All commodities supplied are subject to independent inspection for quality, suitability and contract compliance.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Support

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be affected by the proposal in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, if enacted, to raise the minimum payment for benefit recipients from £5 to £7. [206857]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is our firm belief that it is important that parents support their children even when they have a comparatively small income.

The proposed increase in the flat-rate to £7 recognises the fact that the current flat-rate of £5 has not been increased since it was approved by Parliament in 2000. The increase to £7 is justified by the actual and expected increase in prices and benefits between that time and 2010-11, when it is anticipated that the proposed scheme will be introduced.

It is not possible to estimate the number of people who will be affected by increasing the £5 flat-rate to £7. This is because we know that the composition of the caseload is likely to change as we start to allow parents to make their own arrangements for child maintenance. Although we expect the size of the caseload to drop, at this time there is no way of knowing, precisely, which cases will remain and which will leave. It is therefore not possible to determine with any certainty the actual composition of the Commission's caseload at the time when existing cases will become subject to the new calculation rules.

Cost of Living: Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in living costs for pensioners in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181659]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Price indices for pensioner households are published in Tables 7.4 and 7.5 of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Focus on Consumer Price Indices. Latest information relates to quarter 1 2008. This information is available in the Library.

Council Tax Benefits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of eligible *(a)* households and *(b)* pensioner households which claimed council tax benefit in each region of England in each year since 1997. [206118]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the proportion of those eligible who claim council tax benefit are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is, therefore, not possible to say what the take-up rate was in each region of England since 1997.

Departmental Correspondence

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what checks are in place to ensure inappropriately signed print is not used in letters issued to his Department's clients with visual impairment. [205246]

Mrs. McGuire: Customers have the option to request written information in a different format to ensure disabled people can access our services. Customers with visual difficulties can request to receive their letters in larger sized print. We then take measures to ensure that all future correspondence is issued appropriately.

Fire Prevention: Public Buildings

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Health and Safety Executive have had with local authorities and the construction industry on fire resistance standards for materials used in public buildings. [203723]

Mrs. McGuire: None. These matters are outside the remit of my Department and the Health and Safety Executive.

Fylde

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many full-time equivalent staff *(a)* were employed by each of his business directorates in Fylde in each of the last four years and *(b)* have been so employed in 2008; [205690]

(2) how many of his Department's staff working in Fylde were redeployed to Government work in another Department in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* each of the preceding four years. [205692]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed in each business unit in Fylde in each of the last four years is shown in the following table. For 2004-07 the figure shown is the number of staff still employed at 31 December. The figure for 2008 is at 30 April 2008, the latest date for which figures are available.

Full-time equivalent staff employed in Fylde

Fylde Business Units	*Staffing*	*December 2004*	*December 2005*	*December 2006*	*December 2007*	*April 2008*
The Appeals Service[1]	FTE	0	1	0	0	0
Child Support Agency	FTE	302	294	456	382	367
Corporate and Shared Services	FTE	1,474	1,300	1,143	944	876
Disability and Carers Service	FTE	2,973	3,143	3,040	2,763	2,703
Jobcentre Plus	FTE	983	471	873	770	735
The Pensions Service	FTE	94	104	326	214	103
Total FTE[2]		5,826	5,314	5,839	5,073	4,784

[1] The Appeals Service transferred to the Department for Constitutional Affairs from April 2006.

[2] Total may not sum due to rounding

The number of the Department's staff who transferred from Fylde to Government work in another Department is shown in the following table:

Staff transferring to other Government Departments

Fylde staff transferred to OGD[1]	*Headcount*
1 January to 31 December 2004	32
1 January to 31 December 2005	18
1 January to 31 December 2006	23
1 January to 31 December 2007	24
1 January to 30 April 2008 (latest month)	4
Total	101

[1] The numbers of staff transferred to OGD includes both staff redeployed and those moving on a voluntary basis. To break this information down further would be at a disproportionate cost.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Students

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the review into the rules on periods of study allowed by those on jobseekers allowance to be completed and published. [201882]

Mr. Plaskitt: We worked with City Strategy Pathfinders during 2007 to look at what further enabling measures could be put in place to help people into work; this included looking at whether any further changes needed to be made to enable benefit claimants to be able to study or train full-time. This work concluded that a wide range of flexibilities already existed to enable full-time study, for example for those on long-term incapacity benefit and people in vulnerable groups claiming income support.

In our joint report with DIUS, "Opportunity, Employment and Progression", published on 26 November 2007, we indicated that we were removing the 16 hour rule in housing benefit for short term recipients of incapacity benefit and that we would consider whether it might be practicable to define limited exemptions from the '16 hour rule' for specific groups—such as young people living in supported accommodation. We will report on progress on both of these in due course. We are also taking forward a proposal to allow more people on jobseeker's allowance to be able to access full-time, employment focused training for up to eight weeks by moving them onto a training allowance. We are planning to test a similar flexibility in a City Strategy Pathfinder area later this year and, learning the lessons from this, roll out nationally during the 2009-10 academic year. We are also looking at further ways of increasing access to full-time training for jobseeker's allowance claimants where this would help support their move into employment.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205145]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not hire VIP facilities at airports.

Pension Service: Swansea

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what work has been transferred from other centres to the Pension Service Centre in Swansea since 2005. [201210]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: 450,000 customer cases.

Pensioners: Cost of Living

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of living for pensioner households in each year since 1997. [203275]

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the pensioner prices index was in each year from 1978-79 to 2008-09. [200649]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Price indices for pensioner households are published in Tables 7.4 and 7.5 of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Focus on Consumer Price Indices. This information is available in the Library.

ONS produce separate indices for one and two pensioner households where at least three quarters of the household's income is from state benefits. These households are excluded from the Retail Prices Index (RPI).

The ONS exclude housing costs from the pensioner indices on the grounds that this would overstate inflation, as pensioners either tend to have lower housing costs, or would mostly be cushioned against some rises in housing costs by increases in housing-related benefits.

Pensioners: Income

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of pensioners had a net annual income of *(a)* up to £5,200, *(b)* £5,200 to £10,400, *(c)* £10,400 to £20,800, *(d)* £20,800 to £40,000, *(e)* £40,000 to £80,000 and *(f)* over £80,000 in (i) Scotland and (ii) the UK in the latest year for which figures are available. [200838]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Due to pension credit no pensioner need live on less than £124.05 per week (£6,451 per year) in 2008-09, compared to £67.05 per week in 1996-97 (£3,487 per year).

The pension credit take-up target for 2008-09 is to deliver an annualised value of new successful pension credit applications of £767 million and to secure at least 250,000 successful new pension credit applications, an increase of 15,000 on this year's target.

We want as many people as possible to take up the benefits they are entitled to, which is why we have simplified the application process and focussed on encouraging people to apply.

The following table shows the percentage of pensioners with net income in each income band:

	Percentage of pensioner units with net income in each band	
	Scotland	*UK*
Up to £5,200	4	6
£5,200 to £10,400	39	34
£10,400 to £20,800	44	43
£20,800 to £40,000	12	14
Over £40,000	2	3

Notes:

1. Net income before housing costs is gross income less income tax payments, national insurance contributions, contributions to occupational and private pension schemes, local taxes, maintenance and child support payments, and parental contributions to children living away from home.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 1 per cent. Figures may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.
4. Due to the small sample sizes involved in estimates below a national level, three year's data have been combined and the income band has been deflated to the appropriate year's prices.
5. A pensioner unit is either a single person over pension age or a couple in which at least one person is over pension age.
6. Figures for Scotland are estimated by combining three year's data from 2003-04 to 2005-06. Figures for the UK are based on 2005-06 data. Reliable estimates of the percentage of pensioners receiving between £40,000 and £80,000 per year and over £80,000 per year are not possible with the data source, so the two groups have been combined.

Source:

Family Resources Survey

Personal Accounts

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has had from the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority on the level of charges on personal accounts. [205496]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The personal accounts scheme will deliver low charges for members and fulfil the Government's intention that the scheme should be self-financing over the long-term. My Department is working closely with the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority to develop a funding strategy for the personal accounts scheme, including the level and structure of charges that will be levied on members. A final charge level will only be known once the funding strategy is finalised and the Delivery Authority has undertaken the commercial procurement process, which will establish the detailed costs of delivering the scheme. They can only do this once the Authority's powers have been extended through the current Pensions Bill.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205036]

Mrs. McGuire: There are no smoking shelters at any of the Department's London buildings and none have been constructed in the last five years. All DWP buildings are smoke free indoors.

Social Fund

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has commissioned KPMG to undertake a feasibility study to assess options available for the reform of the system of Social Fund loans. [205482]

Mr. Plaskitt: Yes.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of *(a)* disability living allowance care component, *(b)* incapacity benefits, *(c)* state pension and *(d)* bereavement benefits claimed outside the United Kingdom was in the last year for which figures are available; and what he expects them to be in the next three financial years. [201689]

Mr. Plaskitt: Benefits claimed outside the United Kingdom excluding disability living allowance are in the following table.

The cost of the disability living allowance (DLA) care component claimed outside the UK was estimated to be below £1 million in 2006-07. From October 2007 the ECJ judgment on exportability of the care component will increase DLA expenditure outside the UK, however the full extent of the UK's responsibilities following this judgment have not yet been determined.

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Incapacity benefit	44	44	42	36
Severe disablement allowance	1	—	—	—
State pension	2,175	2,323	2,482	2,651
Bereavement benefits	25	23	21	18

Notes:
1. All figures are consistent with spring 2008 forecasts, as well as expenditure information published on the internet at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp.
2. There is no forecast available for severe disablement allowance.
Source:
Departmental Accounting and Statistical data and forecasts.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reservations the Government plans to enter against the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities prior to its ratification. [206016]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 6 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 29WS, "UN Convention on Disability Rights" which sets out the current position in respect of our progress towards ratification of the Convention, and the areas where reservations are still under consideration.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to streamline the delivery of Pillar 2 monies under the Common Agricultural Policy. [206296]

Jonathan Shaw: In England, Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy (Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013) is delivered by Natural England, the Regional Development Agencies, the Forestry Commission and the Rural Payments Agency. The new programme was approved by the European Commission in December 2007. At present, there are no immediate plans for changing the delivery arrangements, but DEFRA and the delivery bodies will continue to work together to improve the efficiency and value for money of these arrangements wherever possible.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress the Rural Payments Agency is making towards its targets of *(a)* making 96.14 per cent. of payments under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) by 30 June 2008 and *(b)* making 90 per cent. of the total value of payments for the 2007 SPS by the end of May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [206874]

Jonathan Shaw: As at 19 May 2008 the total value of payments made under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) is £1.295 billion, which is 89.3 per cent. of the estimated total fund of £1.45 billion.

The Rural Payments Agency continues to work towards meeting its 2007 SPS targets.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Rural Payments Agency on recent trends in the rates of payments under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme. [206875]

Jonathan Shaw: When the Chief Executive of the Rural Payments Agency met with my noble Friend, Lord Rooker and industry stakeholders on 6 May 2008 he explained the steps that were being taken to ensure progress on the 2007 Single Payment Scheme in line with the agency's target to make 90 per cent. of payments by value by the end of May.

As at 19 May 2008, payments totalled £1.295 billion, which is 89.3 per cent. of the estimated total fund of £1.45 billion.

Beekeeping: Research

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned into beekeeping and bee health in each year since 2001; what research he plans to commission in each of the next five years; what the cost of that research *(a)* was and *(b)* is expected to be in each year; and if he will make a statement. [206663]

Jonathan Shaw: The following projects have been funded by DEFRA since 2001. The costs of the projects are included:

Project	*From*	*To*	*Cost of project (£)*
HH0813SHB: Screening pathogens for the biocontrol of Varroa jacobsoni.	1998	2002	410,231
HH0814SHB: The epidemiology of honey bee viruses transmitted by Varroa destructor.	2000	2001	120,000

Project	*From*	*To*	*Cost of project (£)*
HH0815SHB: Effects of chlortetracycline on honeybee brood (Apis mellifera) development and residues in honey following treatment.	2000	2001	17,557
HH0816SHB: Establishing the appropriate treatment method and an MRL for oxytetracycline for honey	2001	2002	21,142
HH0817THB: The control of exotic bee diseases and their likely interactions with UK conditions.	2001	2004	330,000
HH0819SHB: Fungal control of Varroa jacobsoni (destructor)	2002	2006	383,802
HH3126SHB: Evaluation of TaqMan real-time PCR for detection of Aethina tumida (Small Hive Beetle)	2005	2005	14,348
HH3223SHB: Minimisation of oxytetracycline levels in honey after antibiotic treatment	2003	2004	25,000
HH3224SHB: Developing Real-Time PCR TaqMan(TM) instrumentation for Bee Health Diagnostics.	2002	2003	10,000
HH3225SHB: Detection and control techniques for the Small Hive Beetle Aethina tumida (Murray); (Coleoptera, Nitiduluidae)	2002	2003	8,000
HH3234SHB: Optimisation of detection methods for Melissococcus plutonius (European foulbrood, EFB)	2005	2005	10,101
HH3235SHB: Honey bee virus detection and discrimination	2005	2005	25,233
HH3815SHB: A promotional publication summarising the Defra Bee Health Research and Development activity over 10 years	2004	2005	9,920
HL0161LHB: Development of a method of biological control of European foulbrood in honeybees to supersede antibiotic treatments.	2000	2003	103,579
PH0410: The taxonomy of UK and exotic honey bee viruses: a molecular approach (PhD Fellowship).	2007	2010	81,248
PH[illegible]502: Assessing the effectiveness of the shook swarm method for controlling European Foul Brood.	2006	2008	185,393
PH0503: Development of a monitoring system for the small hive beetle, Aethina tumida (Murray).	2006	2008	225,772
PN0936: The effects of endocrine disrupters on honeybee populations.	2001	2004	86,148
PN0944: Use of sub-lethal effects in honeybees in pesticide risk assessment.	2001	2002	31,785
PN0945: Assessing the impact of mixtures of pyrethroids and fungicides on honeybees.	2001	2004	55,718.
PS2322: Assessment of the risk posed to honeybees by systemic pesticides.	2005	2007	46,104
VM02140: Investigation of the fate of veterinary drugs used in apiculture.	2004	2007	180,589
VM02156: Investigation into the experimental protocols required to determine Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in honey: Preliminary study using organic acids as model compounds to propose ways in which withdrawal times might be calculated.	2007	2010	287,083

For the current year, detailed allocations for all of DEFRA's programmes have still to be finalised, including those for research. Commissioned research for honey bee health in 2008-09 is expected to be c. £190,000. Research priorities are addressed in the draft Bee Health strategy which has recently been published for public consultation. Commissioned research in later years will be considered in the light of priorities identified in the agreed strategy and the resources available.

Bees

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the value of the contribution honey bees made to the agricultural economy in the last 12 months. [206784]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1324W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Wirral, South (Ben Chapman).

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to monitor and control foul brood diseases in bees. [206785]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* The National Bee Unit operates a statutory inspection programme for American foul brood (AFB) and European foul brood (EFB). DEFRA's bee health R and D programme is assessing the effectiveness of the shook swarm technique for the control of EFB to determine whether this method can be used by beekeepers as part of an Integrated Pest Management scheme. In addition, a PhD studentship is being funded through the DEFRA seedcorn fund to study AFB.

Reports are currently being prepared for two projects carried out during 2007-08 under the Horizon Scanning and Future Proofing Scheme which forms part of the Memorandum of Understanding between DEFRA and the Central Science Laboratory. These projects aimed to develop additional methods for distinguishing the bacteria causing AFB from other bacteria in the same subspecies and to investigate resistance of honey bees to EFB.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he is funding on tropilaelaps; and if he will make a statement. [206789]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* No research on tropilaelaps is being carried out. Tropilaelaps is not considered to be present in Europe. However, a contingency plan for exotic pests and diseases of honey bees has been developed with stakeholders.

Biofuels

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research was commissioned by his Department on biogas production in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in each year since 2000. [205864]

Mr. Woolas: Since 2000 DEFRA has spent £720,000 on research and development into biogas production. Current work includes the UK contribution to a EU FP7 Biogas project (£300,000 over four years). This project is due to complete in 2010 and will result in a synthesis of information required to assess the development of a sustainable biogas industry in the UK.

The Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) has also conducted research on food waste processing, including anaerobic digestion. This can be found on WRAP'S website:

www.wrap.org.uk/biowaste

DEFRA holds the research and development budget and commissions research relevant to England and Wales.

DEFRA also launched the Waste Implementation programme's £30 million Demonstrator programme to demonstrate innovative waste treatments technologies as possible alternatives to landfill. The programme aims to prove the economic, social and environmental viability (or not) of each selected technology.

BSE

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of BSE were recorded in UK herds in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007. [206830]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of cases of BSE recorded in UK herds in the years specified is shown in the following table:

Year of confirmation	*Number of BSE cases confirmed*
2004	343
2005	225
2006	114
2007	67

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency publishes a range of statistical information on BSE and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies on its website.

Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Environment Agency on the effect of additional development on Canvey Island on the ability to evacuate the island in the event of flood risk; and if he will make a statement. [205071]

Mr. Woolas: Assessment of risks to the public and how to meet them, including identification of any evacuation routes needed, is a matter for the relevant Local Resilience Forum. In cases where information from Flood Risk Assessments under PPS 25 is available, this can be taken into account in contingency planning and in development control.

The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee on all planning applications where there is a risk of flooding and continues to work with Local Resilience Forums through area managers and flood incident management teams to improve flood emergency planning and co-ordination.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable he has set for announcing the strategy to reduce UK carbon emissions to the levels proposed in the Climate Change Bill; and if he will make a statement. [206455]

Mr. Woolas: The Climate Change Bill requires that the UK Government set the first three carbon budgets in legislation by 1 June 2009 and publish proposals and policies for meeting those carbon budgets as soon as is reasonably practicable afterwards.

The Chancellor has announced that the first three carbon budgets and a plan for meeting them will be published alongside Budget 2009.

Carbon Emissions: Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1357, on carbon emissions: nuclear power stations, what information his Department holds on which of the countries from which uranium is provided for use in the United Kingdom commercial nuclear programme produce national emissions inventories. [206396]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is responsible for civil nuclear industry in the UK. The UK currently sources uranium for commercial reactors from Australia and Russia.

Those parties reporting national greenhouse gas inventories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are listed on their website.

Construction: Carbon Emissions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the carbon footprint of government-funded construction projects is assessed; and what guidance his Department issues on *(a)* identifying carbon savings during the planning and design process and *(b)* auditing the carbon footprint of completed projects. [205605]

Mr. Woolas: Departmental construction projects are required to be procured in compliance with the 'Common Minimum Standards for the procurement of built environments in the public sector', developed and published by the Office of Government Commerce. These standards include the requirement to complete an appropriate environmental assessment process appropriate to the size nature and scale of the project, such as BREEAM or equivalent. There is currently no requirement to specifically assess the carbon footprint.

Support is available to the Government through the Carbon Trust's Building Design Advice service, which helps organisations to identify the carbon savings in new and renovation projects. It also provides advice on carbon footprinting.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) alleged breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205900]

Jonathan Shaw: During the last three years no officials working in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its agencies have been disciplined or dismissed for (i) alleged breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data.

Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what bio-security measures are in place at airports and ports to prevent the importation of animal diseases from abroad; and if he will make a statement. [206292]

Jonathan Shaw: Legally imported animals and animal products from non-European Union (EU) countries are checked on entry into the United Kingdom (UK) to ensure they meet EU veterinary import conditions. Animal Health (AH) is responsible for carrying out the checks where ports/airports do not handle food products including live animals. Local authorities' veterinarians carry out the checks at ports which handle food of animal origin such as meat, fish, eggs, milk and products containing them, and a mix of animal products.

There are three types of checks:

Documentary checks—checks on the certification accompanying the consignment;

Identity checks—checks to ensure that the consignment matches the information given in the document;

Physical checks—checks on the consignment itself, including checks on temperature, condition, and for microbiological and chemical contaminants.

Checks are carried out in approved facilities at ports and airports. These are known as Border Inspection Posts (BIPs). EU legislation lays down the requirements for BIPs and they are inspected periodically by the European Commission (EC) to ensure they meet the required standard. There is also a programme of liaison visits by AH to local authority operated BIPs to ensure compliance with the required standard.

For intra-community trade, random checks may be carried out at the point of destination to ensure that consignments meet the requirements. If there is a disease outbreak in another member state, the onus is on the exporting country to implement disease control measures to ensure that animals and products which may present a risk are not exported.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has been responsible for anti-smuggling controls at the Great Britain border on illegal imports of products of animal origin (POAO) from outside the EU since 11 April 2003. This includes checks on passengers' baggage, freight and post. These controls are being handled by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) since 1 April 2008. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) retain responsibility in Northern Ireland. HMRC/UKBA is committed to taking effective, proportionate, risk based and intelligence led enforcement measures to prevent illegal imports. It takes account of the latest animal disease risk assessments put together by veterinary experts from DEFRA on the current global and regional outbreak situation and targets resources on those entry routes that pose the greatest threat of disease.

With the exception of certain technical specialists, all frontline detection staff are employed as multifunctional anti-smuggling staff with a responsibility to tackle a range of risks at the border, including dealing with POAO. Anti-smuggling staff are supported by the use of detector dogs and baggage X-ray scanning equipment.

Detector dogs specifically trained to detect POAO are flexibly deployed in customs channels and baggage reclaim areas in accordance with latest risk assessments. Dogs are particularly successful in identifying large numbers of passengers and their baggage in a short time. They also work from time to time in postal depots and other customs controlled areas including freight sheds, car halls and lorry lanes. UKBA's ongoing commitment is to maintain 11 fully trained POAO detector dogs but at any one time, the number operational can fluctuate as a result of such factors as sickness or retirements and the need to train new dogs.

X-ray equipment is located in all Customs Green channels at major ports and airports to scan suspicious baggage. Over-belt scanners are located behind selected baggage belts to scan all baggage from selected high risk flights.

In addition, there continues to be a joined-up approach across Government Departments on the overall communications strategy to help raise travellers' awareness of the rules on personal imports of POAO. A variety of public awareness raising mechanisms are deployed with DEFRA leading on inland audiences and UKBA at the border and abroad. This is part of the overall anti-smuggling strategy to complement UKBA's targeted checks at the border.

Environment Agency: Conferences

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on its internal communications conference in 2007; how much of that total was accounted for by *(a)* payment of speakers, *(b)* travel costs, *(c)* food and *(d)* accommodation; and how many staff are due to attend the 2008 conference. [205609]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is increasingly professionalising its communications teams in order to draw on new tools and best practice technicians to change the behaviours of business, farmers, people at risk of flooding and other key audiences. The Communication Conference is a professional development event that supports this and helps to build strong integrated communications teams and programmes. The Environment Agency again expects 250 people to attend the 2008 conference.

The costs of the 2007 conference are as follows.

	£
Payment of speakers	6,000
Travel costs	8,037
Food and drink	8,121
Accommodation (including daytime venues)	40,450
Production and sundry costs	13,092
Total	75,700

Travel costs include bus hire and estimated individual delegate travel to and from the venue at Nottingham university. This is based on an estimate of £30 expenditure per head and takes into account off-peak travel and maximised car-sharing.

Fisheries: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information he holds on the levels of fuel subsidy provided to fishing fleets in other EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [204625]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* I understand that the Spanish Government is making payments directly related to fuel used by fishermen. These payments are within the de minimis limits set out in Commission Regulation 875/2007. The payments are set at 0.095 per litre of fuel used in the period 1 November 2004 to 31 October 2005.

If applied in the UK, such a scheme would cost in the order of £25 million a year, and result in a payment to fishermen of around 7.5p/litre of fuel used: around one third of the increase in the price of diesel since this time last year. Such a scheme does not address the need for the fleet to adapt to higher fuel prices in the longer term, diverts resources from assisting with this adaptation and is not sustainable.

I have no information that any other member state is making such payments.

Flood Control

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to update and consolidate legislation on flood prevention and protection in a single Act. [205610]

Mr. Woolas: One of Sir Michael Pitt's interim conclusions was that flooding legislation should be updated and streamlined under a single unifying Act of Parliament that addresses all sources of flooding, clarifies responsibilities and facilitates flood risk management.

The Government recognise the arguments in support of this and the draft legislative programme, published on 14 May, says that the Government intend to publish a draft Floods and Water Bill for consultation during the next session of Parliament, following the Pitt review into the 2007 floods and the Government's water strategy, 'Future Water'.

Flood Control: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the implementation of the European Floods Directive 2007; what the timetable for implementation is; what the estimated cost of implementing the Directive is; what account will be taken of the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive in implementing the European Floods Directive; and if he will make a statement. [205309]

Mr. Woolas: The European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC of 23 October 2007) (the Floods Directive) is designed to help member states prevent and limit floods and their damaging effects on human health, the environment, infrastructure and property.

In contrast with current domestic legislation, the Floods Directive advocates a risk based approach to flood risk management. Sir Michael Pitt's interim report on lessons learned from the 2007 floods recommends that flooding legislation should be updated and streamlined under a single unifying Act, which embraces this risk based approach.

The Floods Directive came into force on 26 November, 2007 and member states have two years to transpose the directive into domestic law. DEFRA is co-ordinating transposition within the UK and is ultimately responsible for its timely and compliant implementation. A UK Floods Directive Liaison Group is developing policy on implementation and monitoring progress against the project timetable which, for England, is set out as follows:

Project initiation—August 2007

Consult on draft regulations and impact assessment (including the cost of implementation)—from February 2009

Review outcome of consultation, revise and lay draft regulations by July 2009

Bring into force—November 2009

The cost of transposing and implementing the directive will be assessed prior to consultation. However, existing flood risk mapping and planning arrangements in England already reflect the broad thrust of the directive and new proposals on surface water management to address Pitt will compliment those of the directive so costs will be limited.

The flood risk assessment process required by the Floods Directive must be aligned with the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive and carried out in consultation with stakeholders.

Flood Control: Training

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the foundation degree training programme in flood risk management; how many people *(a)* have completed the course and *(b)* are currently enrolled; what the cost to the taxpayer per participant is; and how many graduates were offered and (i) accepted and (ii) turned down relevant positions in the public sector in each year since the programme's inception. [205607]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency assesses the foundation degree training programme each year and in 2007 indicated a very high standard of readiness in graduates who demonstrated the necessary skills, training and knowledge to undertake their role in flood and coastal risk management. Of the first intake of graduates, 67 per cent. had the potential to progress further through the organisation. The 2007 review resulted in continued support for the foundation degree and business support for the provision of mentors for students.

56 foundation degree trainees (FDTs) have graduated FdSc Rivers and Coastal Engineering and 31 FDTs are currently enrolled. The average cost per trainee (including all costs) is £34,000. 54 FDTs have been offered employment of which 52 accepted.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of the GM crops *(a)* hybrid maize (i) MON863 x MON810, (ii) MON863 x NK603 and (iii) MON863 x MON810 x NK603, *(b)* GM maize (i) Bt11 and (ii) ISO7, *(c)* GM rice LL62 and *(d)* GM potato Amflora. [206015]

Mr. Woolas: At a College of Commissioners orientation debate on GMOs on 7 May the European Commission decided to refer all of these applications back to the European Food Safety Authority for further scientific advice.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Trees

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what releases of genetically modified (GM) eucalyptus trees were made under release consents 93/R6/1 and 93/R6/2 by Shell Forestry; what areas were planted in each case; how many trees planted released GM materials under each consent; what the duration was of each release made; and whether Shell Forestry submitted a post-release monitoring report for each consent. [205749]

Mr. Woolas: The trial under consent 93/R6/1 involved the cultivation of 48 GM Eucalyptus plants and 132 non-GM control plants between June and November 1993. Consent 95/R6/2 involved the trial cultivation of 48 GM Eucalyptus plants and 142 non-GM control plants between July and November 1995, within an area of 400 square metres. The precise area of the 1993 trial is not recorded, but as a similar number of plants was involved as in the 1995 trial, it can be assumed that the area planted was broadly the same.

In both cases, Shell Research Ltd submitted post-release monitoring reports which are available in the GM Public Register, held by DEFRA. The reports confirm that no persistence or spread of the genetically modified organisms was detected. This is consistent with the fact that these trials were of young Eucalyptus plants (Eucalyptus grandis) that would not produce pollen or seed. At the end of the trials the plants were killed with a herbicide, dug up and incinerated.

Ground Water: Pollution

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* assessment he has made of risks and *(b)* estimate he has made of levels of contamination of groundwater; which 10 sites had the highest level of groundwater contamination in the most recent period for which figures are available; what the sources of contamination were in each case; what factors influence decisions relating to remedial action; and what remedial action has been undertaken at each site. [205604]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the earlier responses given to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 17 March and 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 736W and column 499W respectively regarding groundwater contamination and contaminated land.

Further to those responses, the highest levels of contamination at a particular site do not necessarily reflect the most serious risks to people or the environment. This usually depends on many factors which control the likelihood that pollutants might enter a "receptor" (e.g. a person or ecosystem) with harmful effect. Any remedial action will depend on the nature of these source-pathway-receptor relationships and the outcome of a risk assessment, as well as considerations of technical feasibility, costs and benefits. These are site-specific matters.

Reservoirs

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to assess the effectiveness of reservoir safety legislation; and if he will make a statement. [206291]

Mr. Woolas: There have been no fatalities resulting from reservoir breaches since the 1920s. The current regulatory regime has played its part in this good record. Nevertheless, there have been incidents at reservoirs, for example at Ulley Reservoir last summer. The Government will carefully consider any recommendations on reservoir safety from Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer floods.

We are undertaking a check of critical infrastructure as a result of the 2007 summer floods.

Seas and Oceans: EU Law

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what means his Department plans to transpose the EU Marine Strategy Directive into UK law; what timetable has been set for the transposition; and if he will make a statement. [206397]

Jonathan Shaw: The marine strategy directive sets the overall goal of achieving good environmental status for Europe's seas by 2020.

The directive was adopted by the European Council on 14 May 2008 and will enter into force 20 days after it appears in the Official Journal of the European Union. Member states are required to transpose the directive two years after it enters into force and the UK will transpose the directive to this timetable using regulations under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972.

The Marine Bill will also include new powers which will help achieve the goal of the directive. It includes a range of specific measures to better manage marine activities and protect UK waters which will contribute to achieving good environmental status.

Tobacco: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1341-2W, on tobacco: EU grants and loans, what steps he is taking to persuade other EU member states to reduce levels of subsidy to tobacco producers. [206086]

Jonathan Shaw: As a non-producer, the UK has concerns about the cost and health implications of the tobacco regime. Subsidies are at odds with the European Community sponsored Europe Against Cancer programme and UK health objectives. The UK has always been critical of the regime.

Ideally the UK would prefer to see it abolished, and so favour progressive disengagement from the sector. Following the 2004 reform, direct support for tobacco production will be progressively brought to an end by 2010. As the majority of member states are tobacco producers it was extremely difficult to secure earlier reform of the regime however the UK is pleased that the link between production and subsidy will finally be brought to an end.

Subsidies in 2007 were €335.5 million, a reduction from the €810.9 million granted in 2006.

JUSTICE

Airguns

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine imposed on persons under 18 years convicted of purchasing or hiring an air weapon under the Firearms Act 1968 was in each of the last five years. [206164]

Mr. Hanson: Person under 18 acquiring a firearm became an offence under the Firearms Act 1968, as amended by Section 33 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

This Section of the Act came into effect on 1 October 2007.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

According to data recorded in the courts proceedings database for the offence of person under 17 acquiring an air weapon there have been no convictions over the period 2002 to 2006.

These figures have been taken from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Appeals: Central Government

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times the Government have sought leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and which of those applications were rejected. [205352]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. While the Treasury Solicitor's Department represents most Government departments making applications for leave to appeal to the House of Lords, it does not represent all departments. Applications for leave to appeal to the House of Lords are made on behalf of client departments by the Treasury Solicitor on instructions and the decisions on these applications are communicated to the client departments accordingly. As there has been no call from client departments to produce the figures, the Treasury Solicitor has not been able to justify the commitment of public funds to collate and record these applications from its own records, and from the records of other Government departments that have made such applications, in the form requested.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [204771]

Maria Eagle: In response to *(a)* the Department for Constitutional Affairs made 440 statutory instruments from 1997. Since 9 May 2007 the Ministry of Justice has made 118 statutory instruments. This information has been supplied by the Office of Public Sector Information from data recorded on their registration database which does not hold details of any statutory instruments made in 1997 and may hold only partial details of those made in 1998. In response to *(b)* this information can be supplied only at disproportionate cost. No central record is maintained of this information. Revocations will have been made by new Acts of Parliament or new statutory instruments.

Drugs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any officials in his Department were disciplined or dismissed for illicit drug taking in each of the last five years. [205935]

Bridget Prentice: According to centrally held records for former DCA there have been no recorded cases of discipline or dismissal for illicit drug taking.

In the public sector Prison Service, centrally held records indicate that two members of staff have been disciplined for illicit drug taking. In each case, the member of staff was dismissed from service.

According to centrally held records for former NOMS and OCJR there have been no recorded cases of discipline or dismissal for illicit drug taking.

Electoral Register: Fraud

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of falsifying information given on an electoral registration form in the most recent 24 month period for which figures are available. [206300]

Bridget Prentice: Unfortunately this information is not recorded in this form and to identify it would involve a relevant authority going through individual case records.

However, the Electoral Commission is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and police forces to collect information about electoral offences so that there is a more comprehensive record for the future.

Judges: Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation regulates the appointment of judges; what changes have been made since enactment; what further changes are planned; what discussions he has had with (i) the Bar Council and (ii) Law Society about such legislation; and if he will make a statement. [206134]

Mr. Straw: The main legislation regulating the appointment of judges is the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (CRA). Schedule 14 to the CRA sets out the primary and secondary legislation relating to those judicial posts where selection by the Judicial Appointments Commission is required, covering the great majority of appointments to courts and tribunals.

Amendments to the CRA are contained in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

Further planned changes to the judicial appointments process are included in the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill (March 2008).

The Bar Council and the Law Society were included in full discussions about this legislation and continue to be consulted regularly about the judicial appointments process.

London Airport

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205148]

Maria Eagle: VIP facilities are usually booked through BAA Business Support Centre Ltd. The bookings through this supplier since May 2006 are as follows:

Year/month	*Number of hires*	*Cost inc. VAT (£)*
2006		
May	0	—
June	3	808.88
July	0	—
August	2	539.25
September	4	1,617.76
October	2	539.25
November	1	269.63
December	0	—
2007		
January	2	539.25
February-May	0	—
June	1	488.80
July-August	0	—
September	1	269.63
October	0	—
November	1	269.63
December	0	—
2008		
January	0	—
February	2	539.25
March-April	0	—
Totals	19	5,881.33

VIP facilities at BAA Gatwick, BAA Stansted, and Luton airport were not hired during this period.

Open Prisons: Rehabilitation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in open jails did not complete relevant offender programmes in the closed prison estate in the most recent period for which figures are available. [206877]

Mr. Straw: This information is not available. It could be obtained only by going through the files of every prisoner held in the open estate in the last 12 months, to do so would be at disproportionate cost. Prior to allocation to an open prison, prisoners are assessed to ensure that the level of risk that they present can be safely managed in open conditions. The assessment will take account of a range of factors including participation in activities such as offending behaviour and treatment programmes where appropriate. The risk assessment process for open conditions is stringent—and becoming more sophisticated at assessing risk. As a result, abscond rates are falling: (financial years) 2003-04—1,310; 2004-05—877; 2005-06—709; 2006-07—555; 2007-08—561 (annualised projection). Over 95 per cent. of those who have absconded are returned to custody.

However, some programmes are also delivered in open prisons. There have been open prisons since 1936 and they are the most effective means of ensuring prisoners are tested in the community before they are released. To release prisoners directly from a closed prison without the resettlement benefits of the open estate would undoubtedly lead to higher levels of post-release re-offending.

Parole

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases the Parole Board considered in each of the last 10 years; how many and what proportion of offenders were granted oral hearings in each of those years; and how many of those offenders were granted parole in each year. [206499]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is set out in the following table. It is based on data published by the Parole Board in its annual reports. It excludes the Parole Board's consideration of recalled prisoners.

Almost all determinate sentence prisoners have their parole applications considered on the papers and therefore the oral hearings listed in the table are predominantly in respect of indeterminate and extended sentence prisoners.

	Determinate sentence prisoners considered for parole	*Extended and Indeterminate (including lifers) prisoners considered for parole*	*Granted oral hearing*	*Granted oral hearing (Percentage)*	*Released by oral hearing*	*Released by oral hearing (Percentage)*
1997-98	5,242	912	278	4.5	39	14.0
1998-99	6,078	753	291	4.2	26	8.9
1999-2000	6,219	903	282	3.9	38	16.7
2000-01	5,576	803	272	4.2	43	15.8
2001-02	5,514	979	466	7.1	40	8.5
2002-03	6,012	1,168	495	6.8	91	18.3
2003-04	6,038	1,672	1,018	13.2	254	24.9
2004-05	7,297	1,614	1,341	15.0	290	21.6
2005-06	7,528	1,761	1,512	16.2	270	17.8
2006-07	6,923	2,104	1,831	20.2	213	11.6

Powers of Attorney

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many applications for lasting power of attorney have been declared invalid since the inception of the Office of the Public Guardian; for what reasons in each case; and whether each was subsequently accepted; [205783]

(2) what assessment he has made of the performance of the Office of the Public Guardian in meeting its service standards; [205784]

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many lasting power of attorney forms have been incorrectly completed and returned to the applicant since the introduction of such forms; in how many such cases *(a)* applicants have been required to pay a second registration fee on successful completion of the form and *(b)* applicants have discontinued their registration; and for what purposes a second registration fee is required. [206586]

Bridget Prentice: The information is as follows:

Applications to register a lasting power of attorney

Since the commencement of the Mental Capacity Act in October 2007 until the end of March 2008 the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) received 9,623 applications to register a lasting power of attorney (LPA). During the same period 1,256 lasting powers of attorney were registered by the Public Guardian. Currently we do not have figures for the total number of LPAs that were rejected during this period as the bulk of the 9,623 applications will still be progressing through the system.

The OPG will only reject an application if it contains material errors that are not capable of correction. The OPG's recent experience is that many initially imperfect applications can be registered after the errors have been corrected by an exchange of correspondence.

The OPG recently carried out a sampling exercise that suggested around 40 per cent. of applications are valid on receipt and can be registered once the statutory waiting period has expired, around 30 per cent. of applications can be registered once further information has been provided and around 30 per cent. cannot be registered at all due to material errors in the application. In January the OPG also identified the main reasons currently why an LPA cannot be registered and made this information available on its website.

A decision was also taken that where a fresh application was necessary and the invalid application was received prior to January the OPG would not charge an additional fee for registration. However, where a new application is required for invalid applications received after January an additional fee will be payable. Where all that is required is additional information, or where errors can be corrected without a fresh application being necessary, no additional fee is payable regardless of when the application was made.

Performance standards at the OPG

There are a number of methods by which the performance of the OPG is currently measured:

Annual key performance indicators (KPIs), agreed with the Ministry of Justice, set out how the Office of the Public Guardian and Court of Protection will meet their service levels.

I also currently receive regular updates on performance from the chief executive and meet with him to discuss performance.

A statutory Public Guardian board scrutinises the way in which the Public Guardian discharges his functions and makes recommendations to the Lord Chancellor as appropriate. I have met periodically with the chair of the board since its inception.

The OPG and Court's Annual report for 2007-08 is due to be published prior to the summer recess and will include an assessment of performance against KPIs and the Public Guardian board will be publishing their first report on the Public Guardian around October 2008 once the Act has been in operation for a full year.

The OPG and Court recently published their business plan for 2008-09 with revised KPIs that give a clearer picture of performance and levels of service to customers.

The Office of the Public Guardian and Court of Protection have faced a number of operational challenges since they were created as a result of volumes of work significantly higher than expected. Although there are positive aspects to this—for example it appears large numbers of people are planning ahead by making a new lasting power of attorney—the high volumes have meant a dip in performance levels. Additional resources have been made available to manage the higher than anticipated workloads and these have been deployed across the organisation and in particular into the team that register powers of attorney. However it will inevitably take some time before the additional resources take full effect.

Rape

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of those convicted of rape were aged *(a)* 10 to 15, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 25, *(d)* 26 to 30 and *(e)* over 30 years in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [206501]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants found guilty of rape, broken down by age group, in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006 are in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants convicted of rape[1] at all courts, by age group, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2, 3]

Age	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000[4]*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
10-15	20	8	19	12	15	8	14	10	25	31
16-18	45	21	39	37	31	28	26	28	66	63
19-25	72	95	62	77	79	76	107	148	127	142
26-30	72	72	64	66	54	73	67	77	65	72
31 and over	308	375	377	313	315	363	369	381	411	446
All ages	517	571	561	505	494	548	583	644	694	754

[1] The following offences and statutes have been included in the above data;
Rape of a female aged under 16. - Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female aged 16 or over. - Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a male aged under 16. - Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a male aged 16 or over - Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male - Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male - Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders sentenced for violence against the person, sexual offences or robbery in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available had previous convictions for any of those types of offence. [206504]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is not available. The published statistics on the previous criminal history of offenders do not include information on the types of previous offences. However, we are currently reviewing our criminal history statistics and aim to publish information of this kind towards the end of 2008.

Sentencing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of those offenders sentenced for violence against the person, sexual offences or robbery received *(a)* a custodial sentence and *(b)* a non-custodial sentence or other disposal in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [206494]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in table 1.2 of the Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin, "Sentencing Statistics 2006", published 13 December 2007 and in the following table.

The publication is available at the following web address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/sentencing-stats2006.pdf

Number of persons sentenced[1] and proportion of total for the offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

					Number of persons and percentage of total	
	Offence group	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Proportion of total sentenced*	*Non-custodial sentence*	*Proportion of total sentenced*
1997	Violence against the person	34,537	10,231	29.6	24,306	70.4
	Sexual offences	4,468	2,514	56.3	1,954	43.7
	Robbery	5,597	4,008	71.6	1,589	28.4
1998	Violence against the person	37,119	11,077	29.8	26,042	70.2
	Sexual offences	4,590	2,687	58.5	1,903	41.5

Number of persons sentenced[1] and proportion of total for the offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

					Number of persons and percentage of total	
	Offence group	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Proportion of total sentenced*	*Non-custodial sentence*	*Proportion of total sentenced*
	Robbery	5,562	3,962	71.2	1,600	28.8
1999	Violence against the person	35,983	11,038	30.7	24,945	69.3
	Sexual offences	4,310	2,615	60.7	1,695	39.3
	Robbery	5,652	4,085	72.3	1,567	27.7
2000	Violence against the person	35,533	11,414	32.1	24,119	67.9
	Sexual offences	3,941	2,431	61.7	1,510	38.3
	Robbery	5,944	4,341	73.0	1,603	27.0
2001	Violence against the person	35,436	11,389	32.1	24,047	67.9
	Sexual offences	4,037	2,400	59.5	1,637	40.5
	Robbery	6,846	4,775	69.7	2,071	30.3
2002	Violence against the person	37,773	11,792	31.2	25,981	68.8
	Sexual offences	4,373	2,562	58.6	1,811	41.4
	Robbery	7,731	5,881	76.1	1,850	23.9
2003	Violence against the person	38,031	11,468	30.2	26,563	69.8
	Sexual offences	4,333	2,505	57.8	1,828	42.2
	Robbery	7,339	5,150	70.2	2,189	29.8
2004	Violence against the person	39,257	12,274	31.3	26,983	68.7
	Sexual offences	4,823	2,841	58.9	1,982	41.1
	Robbery	7,513	5,063	67.4	2,450	32.6
2005	Violence against the person	40,754	12,842	31.5	27,912	68.5
	Sexual offences	4,747	2,701	56.9	2,046	43.1
	Robbery	7,139	4,407	61.7	2,732	38.3
2006	Violence against the person	41,905	12,354	29.5	29,551	70.5
	Sexual offences	4,932	2,808	56.9	2,124	43.1
	Robbery	8,169	4,802	58.8	3,367	41.2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Source

OMS, Analytical Services.

Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institute

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institute Fire Cadet scheme run in partnership with Cheshire fire service in *(a)* promoting social responsibility in and *(b)* providing positive role models for participants from the prison estate; and if he will make a statement on the future of this initiative within the Prison Service. [206312]

Maria Eagle: Local observations backed up in some areas by external evaluation demonstrate that the fire cadet programme offered a wide range of benefits and opportunities for young people in custody, including becoming more socially responsible under the tutorage of positive role models. The programme has been suspended following the loss of European Social Fund IMPACT project funding, but Thorn Cross will re-establish it if appropriate funding can be secured.

Voting Rights: Commonwealth

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Commonwealth countries give UK citizens who are resident in those countries full voting rights. [206449]

Bridget Prentice: Following parliamentary questions on this subject in recent years we sought to obtain information from individual Commonwealth countries about the voting rights of British/Commonwealth citizens resident within their confines.

We received a response rate of 57 per cent. and from this information we have established that within those countries there are no formal reciprocal or other arrangements in place concerning voting rights between Commonwealth countries (including the UK).

As in the UK, it is for the individual Commonwealth countries concerned to decide on their own franchise arrangements and whether they wish to extend the franchise to other Commonwealth citizens resident in their countries, as the UK does to Commonwealth citizens lawfully resident here.

We are aware that in some Commonwealth countries, resident British/Commonwealth citizens may be able to vote in elections there. However, this is linked to time resident in the country or a particular electoral area and is, in respect of some states, not by virtue of them being British/Commonwealth citizens but rather simply because they are lawfully resident non-nationals.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 194386, *(b)* 194387 and *(c)* 194388 on legal aid, tabled on 13 March 2008. [206478]

Maria Eagle: I replied to the hon. Member for Eastleigh's questions on 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 64-65W. I apologise for the delay.

Young Offenders: Education

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders aged 10 to 17-years-old gained one or more (i) GCSE, (ii) AS Level, (iii) NVQ, (iv) BTEC and (v) other qualifications while in custody in each of the last five years. [206890]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not hold central records on the achievements of all young people in custody. However, the development of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) from 31 July 2006, means that data on young offender achievement within Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) are now collected. The first full year of data are in the following tables:

All OLASS provisions	*GCSE*	*GCSE*	*GCE, A/AS/AS level*	*GCE A/AS/AS level*	*GNVQ precursor (BTEC)*	*GNVQ precursor (BTEC)*	*NVQ*	*NVQ*
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Learners achieving one or more specific aim type	38	—	1	—	—	—	3	5

All OLASS provisions	*OCN*	*OCN*	*Other*	*Other*	*Totals*	*Total*
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Learners achieving one or more specific aim type	582	40	3,161	184	3,785	229

For many young people in custody, who are registered at learning providers in the community, their achievements will be attributed to the learning provider with which they are registered, rather than the custodial establishment's LSC provider. Therefore the LSC figures do not provide records of all of the academic achievements of all young people in YOIs.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders aged 10 to 17 years began (i) GCSE, (ii) AS Level, (iii) A Level, (iv) NVQ, (v) BTEC and (vi) apprenticeship qualifications while in custody in each of the last five years. [206891]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not hold central records on the enrolment of all young people in custody onto qualifications. However, the development of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) from 31 July 2006, means that data on young offender enrolment and achievement within Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) are now collected. The first full year of data are as in the following tables:

Count of learners enrolled by specific aim type—all OLASS provision for young people aged 10 to 17

All OLASS Provision	*GCSE*	*GCSE*	*GCE A/AS/AS level*	*GCE A/AS/A2 level*	*GNVQ precursor (BTEC)*	*GNVQ precursor (BTEC)*	*NVQ*	*NVQ*
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Learners enrolled on specific aim type	94	1	12	—	1	—	12	15

All OLASS Provision	*OCN*	*OCN*	*Other*	*Other*	*Totals*	*Total*
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Learners enrolled on specific aim type	1,747	88	6,601	355	8,467	459

For many young people in custody, who are registered at learning providers in the Community, their enrolment will be attributed to the learning provider with which they are registered, rather than the custodial establishment's LSC provider. Therefore the LSC figures do not provide records of all of the academic enrolments of all young people in YOIs.

HEALTH

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206800]

Mr. Bradshaw: Central records held by the Department and its agencies suggest that there have not been any apprenticeships or advanced apprenticeships in the last year.

Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people transferred from residential accommodation into supported living in the latest period for which figures are available. [206645]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204112]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department started offsetting the carbon emissions resulting from our business air travel in 2006-07. In that year we paid a total of £9,094 to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). This represents an estimated total of 917.62 tonnes of CO^2 emitted from 3,620,190 business kilometres flown.

The GCOF aims to fulfil the Government's commitment to offset emissions attributable to all official and ministerial air travel in central Government. It is available to all central Government Departments and provides a simple and cost effective way to offset, as well as ensuring high environmental integrity. The GCOF runs for an initial period of three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09).

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd, who won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 certified emission reduction credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits, over three years from a range of Clean Development Mechanism projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions Plc, to whom EEA is the investment adviser.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health *(a)* how many and *(b)* what value of contracts his Department had with (i) Delib and (ii) Team Rubber in each of the last five years. [205861]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204395]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State for Health has not visited Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1972W, on departmental ICT, how many of the missing or stolen *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [202440]

Mr. Bradshaw: When a laptop, mobile phone or digital personal assistant is recorded lost or stolen and the reportee requests a replacement, a review is undertaken to determine whether a business need still exists before replacement is considered.

In practically all cases a replacement device is provided but no separate record is maintained of the decision to replace or whether a new or reconditioned device was provided.

The following table shows the replacement value recorded at the time the device was reported as lost or stolen. The table also includes details of losses for 2007-08.

I regret that the answer given on 29 February, on the number of personal digital assistants (PDAs) reported lost or stolen in 2005-06 was incorrect due to typographical error. The figure is corrected in the following table.

Financial year	*Mobile phones*	*Value (£)*	*PDAs*	*Value (£)*	*Laptops*	*Value (£)*
2001-02	36	994.77	3	656.84	35	62,275.89

Financial year	*Mobile phones*	*Value (£)*	*PDAs*	*Value (£)*	*Laptops*	*Value (£)*
2002-03	37	2,692.53	1	247.71	30	49,672.07
2003-04	29	1,953.57	3	1,107.29	34	51,459.63
2004-05	15	1,398.97	2	757.87	23	32,783.94
2005-06	11	436.52	4	1,822.04	18	20,599.97
2006-07	18	652.50	4	1,617.40	11	11,509.71
2007-08	21	809.48	9	2,261.30	14	13,887.47
Totals	167	8,929.34	26	8,470.45	165	242,188.68

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203846]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will publish in due course an annual list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in the Department during the course of the 2007-08 financial year.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many respondents took part in each consultation held by his Department in each of the last three years. [198681]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of responses to consultations conducted by the Department is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of responses to consultations varies greatly. For example, there were 34 responses to the consultation on 'Implementation of European Directive 2005/36/EC, for Health and Social Care professions in the United Kingdom'. There were more than 41,000 responses to the "Your Health, Your care, Your say" initiative.

Departmental Sick Leave

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187872]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not record working days lost that can be attributed to stress-related conditions. For the year ended 31 December 2007, the percentage of working days lost covered by the broader absence reason 'Mental Health - including depression, anxiety and potential stress related problems' was 16.5 per cent.

Doctors: Career Structure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many Foundation Year 1 and Year 2 training places are available for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; how many junior doctors have applied for those places; and how many of those are (i) UK residents, (ii) European Economic Area residents and (iii) non-European Economic Area residents; [205558]

(2) how many *(a)* applications and *(b)* places there are for junior doctors in Foundation Year 1 in 2008-09, broken down by specialty; [205565]

(3) whether all the 2008 Foundation Year candidates for *(a)* genito-urinary medicine and *(b)* sexually transmitted infection posts will be offered posts. [205569]

Ann Keen: The Foundation Programme is a two-year generic training programme for junior doctors consisting of foundation year 1 and foundation year 2. The programme comprises the training stage between medical school and specialist/general practice training. There are no specific specialist foundation programmes.

For the 2008 national recruitment round, foundation year 1 posts were advertised as part of the two-year Foundation Programme. Successful applicants to the two-year Foundation Programme automatically move from foundation year 1 to foundation year 2 on achieving the required competencies.

Stand-alone foundation year 2 posts are advertised and filled locally. Information on these posts is not collected centrally.

Analysis of the latest figures for the 2008-09 national recruitment from the UK Foundation Programme Office, which runs the national recruitment to foundation programmes, indicates that there were 7,159 eligible applicants and 7,248 foundation programmes in the United Kingdom.

Recruitment to 2009 foundation programmes has not begun. Data are not yet available on the number of programmes or applicants. Current planning indicates that there should be sufficient Foundation Programme 1 places to match the output from medical schools in England, plus around 5 per cent. of additional places.

Information is not collected on the residency status of applicants to the Foundation Programme.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Foundation Year 1 training places there will be in each of the next 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the number of junior doctors who will apply for such places in each of the next 10 years. [205566]

Ann Keen: The number of foundation year 1 training places each year depends upon the need for trained doctors in the national health service. Planning assumes that all those successfully completing medical school in England will apply for a place on the Foundation Programme. Current planning should provide sufficient foundation year 1 places to match the output from medical schools in England, plus around 5 per cent. of additional places.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places for doctors in 2008-09 will be *(a)* temporary and *(b)* fixed term. [205567]

Ann Keen: Figures for the number of temporary training places in 2008-09 are not held centrally.

So far, 886 out of 8,975 posts advertised this year are fixed term specialty training appointments.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places for doctors in 2009-10 will be reserved for candidates not appointed in 2008-09. [205568]

Ann Keen: None.

Doctors: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether junior doctors' salaries will be banded in 2008-09 and 2009-10. [205856]

Ann Keen: The banding multipliers are reviewed annually by the Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB). For 2008-09, the DDRB's recommendations were to maintain banding multipliers at current rates for another year. This was accepted by Government.

For 2009-10 pay round, the DDRB will consider the evidence put forward by Government, unions and NHS Employers and then make recommendations to Government.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received treatment for heroin abuse in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [201076]

Dawn Primarolo: Only part of the data requested are available. The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse publish information from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) on the numbers of people in structured drug treatment.

As shown in the following table NDTMS figures for the numbers of people in structured drug treatment for heroin misuse, in each drug action team partnership area and by region were only published for one year, 2003-04 and since 2004-05 data are only been published at a national level. Data for 2007-08 will be published this summer.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cornwall	708	n/a	n/a	n/a
South West	2,013	n/a	n/a	n/a
England	78,931	80,274	108,000	117,305

n/a = Not available.

Prior to 2003-04 the numbers of clients receiving drug treatment were based on estimates.

Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has visited Essex in the last 12 months. [204973]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has visited Essex on three occasions in the last 12 months.

Ministers in this Department have visited Essex on six occasions in the last 12 months (this includes the Secretary of State).

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'. Copies of the 'Ministerial Code' are available in the Library.

General Practitioners

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the datasets on road distance to a GP surgery, for lower layer super output areas, provided by the National Health Service Information Authority to assist the compilation of the index of deprivation for *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007. [202890]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government (John Healey) on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 313W.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which products have been assessed by the Rapid Review Panel since 2003; and which level of recommendation each one received. [205203]

Ann Keen: The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) does not conduct evaluations of products but does review information and evidence provided in order to make recommendations to the Department.

The RRP has undertaken 207 assessments since its first meeting and a full list of the products reviewed is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1160994272839?p=1160994272839

Medical Equipment: Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total NHS spend on medical supplies and equipment has been in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [204130]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on medical supplies and equipment spend centrally. A decision on the procurement of medical supplies and equipment is made at a local level.

Information on spend for clinical supplies and services which includes revenue spend on medical and surgical instruments but not capital spend is outlined in the following table.

Total clinical supplies and services

£000

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Primary care trust	36,315	147,624	349,273	358,768	404,854	448,830	475,581
Strategic health authority	13,020	20,171	1,309	1,050	909	61	39
Trust	3,829,447	4,144,664	4,454,694	4,966,842	4,546,683	4,618,645	4,567,305
Total	3,878,782	4,312,459	4,805,276	5,326,660	4,952,446	5,067,536	5,042,925

National Child Health Immunisation Board

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the minutes of the 15 October 2007 meeting of the National Child Health Immunisation Board. [202326]

Dawn Primarolo: The minutes of 15 October 2007, National Child Health Immunisation Board have been placed in the Library.

NHS Information Centre: Grayling Political Strategy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the NHS Information Centre made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202299]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally—details of individual sub-contractual payments are held by the Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS: Cleaning Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what products and treatments, used for infection control or cleaning purposes in NHS facilities, have been reviewed by the Rapid Review Panel since December 2005. [206349]

Ann Keen: Since December 2005 five products have demonstrated sufficient basic research and development, validation and recent in-use evaluations to enable the Rapid Review Panel (RRP) to make a recommendation to the Department that the product should be made available to national health service bodies. This is a recommendation one.

Where appropriate products have been made available to the NHS by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) via the NHS Supply Chain and are contained in their product supply catalogue.

The Department does not have full information on the use of the products reviewed by the RRP as infection control products do not have to be purchased through NHS Supply Chain. NHS trusts are free to choose which products to purchase and will maintain their own records.

NHS PASA does not recommend particular products.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the findings of the evaluation of room cleaning for MRSA using vaporised hydrogen peroxide decontamination technology along with wet disinfection; and if he will make a statement. [206350]

Ann Keen: The Department's project on the importance of environmental contamination, including on assessment of gaseous fumigation, including vaporisation products, has been extended and is now due to be complete by the end of August 2008.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many submissions the Rapid Review Panel has received to its review of products to aid cleanliness and fight infections in the NHS; when each submission was received; and on which date the Rapid Review Panel reported its results for each submission in the last year for which information is available. [206355]

Ann Keen: The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) has reviewed 37 products in three meetings since May 2007.

The Department does not hold the data on when each product was received however, the deadline for application receipt is usually three weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. The RRP has a limit on the number of products it can review during one meeting and so the number of reviews is capped, applications are reviewed on a first-come first-served basis. Late submissions are placed on the agenda for the next available meeting.

The RRP met on 19 June 2007, 25 September 2007 and 6 December 2007 and reports were released to the public on 10 July 2007, 25 October and 8 January 2008.

NHS: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will establish a separate medicines appraisal system for ultra-orphan drugs; and if he will make a statement; [204525]

(2) with reference to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 605-6W, on NHS: drugs, on what grounds the decision not to establish a separate appraisal system for ultra-orphan drugs was made; and whether this decision has been reviewed in 2008. [205295]

Dawn Primarolo: A separate appraisal system for ultra orphan drugs was not established as it was felt that national commissioning was a more appropriate route for ensuring consistent availability of certain ultra orphan drugs for rare genetic disorders. I have no plans at present to establish such a system. This position is kept under review in the context of other developments relating to policy on new drugs but has not been the subject of a specific review exercise in 2008.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much Mid Essex primary care trust received per capita in the latest period for which figures are available; [206034]

(2) what the average level of per capita funding for primary care trusts in England was in the latest period for which figures are available; [206035]

(3) which primary care trusts received *(a)* the highest and *(b)* the lowest level of per capita funding in the latest period for which figures are available. [206036]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest year for which data are available is 2008-09. Table 1 as follows provides the revenue allocation per head of unweighted population made to Mid Essex primary care trust (PCT) for 2008-09, and it also includes the average level of funding per capita for PCTs in England for the same period.

Table 2 as follows shows the PCTs receiving the highest and the lowest level of funding per capita in 2008-09.

Table 1

	2008-09 allocation per head (£)
Mid Essex PCT	1,187
England average	1,449

Table 2

PCT	*2008-09 allocation per head (£)*	*Rank of allocation per head*
Islington PCT	2,066	Highest allocation
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,178	Lowest allocation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to be spent per head of population to primary care trusts in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* North Yorkshire and York primary care trust area for 2008-09; what account is taken of the (i) rurality and (ii) sparsity of population in setting the spending per head of population in York and North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [206454]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following provides the revenue allocation per head of unweighted population made to England, Yorkshire and the Humberside strategic health authority (SHA), and North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) for 2008-09.

	2008-09 allocation per head (£)
England average	1,449
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	1,452
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,269

The funding formula introduced in 2003-04 and used in the 2008-09 PCT revenue allocations, provides the best available measure of health need in all areas. In calculating health need in rural areas it takes account of the effects of access, transport and poverty.

The development of the formula is continuously overseen by the Advisory Committee on resource allocation (ACRA). ACRA is an independent body made up of national health service managers, academics and general practitioners. ACRA has looked at the issue of rurality on many occasions and has considered rural issues as part of its current work programme, which is in place to support revenue allocations to PCTs post 2008-09.

The aim is to announce the outcome of ACRA's review of the formula alongside revenue allocations to PCTs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 before the summer recess.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 9th May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1260W, on the NHS: information and communications technology, whether the reset process can be used to increase the value of his Department's supplier contract with Fujitsu. [205872]

Mr. Bradshaw: The contract reset process allows for the option of agreeing enhancements to existing services or functionality that need to be supported by a business case and to be approved through normal governance processes. Such changes would be properly reflected in the total contract value.

NHS: Infectious Diseases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recommendations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Patient Safety Agency has made to the NHS on hand infection control against the spread of norovirus. [206346]

Ann Keen: The Department advice is to follow existing professional guidance[1,2] which advocates enhanced handwashing.

The National Patient Safety Agency has ongoing communications with the national health service about hand infection control via the cleanyourhands campaign. The campaign implementation guidance and materials advocate using soap and water in situations where vomiting and diarrhoea are prevalent, for example norovirus and Clostridium difficile cases, or when hands are visibly soiled.

Sources:

[1] The Journal of Hospital Infection—epic2: National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England. www.epic.tvu.ac.uk/PDF%20Files/epic2/epic2-final.pdf

[2] Preventing person-to-person spread following gastrointestinal infections: guidelines for public health physicians and environmental health officers Prepared by a Working Group of the former PHLS Advisory Committee on Gastrointestinal Infections Communicable Disease and Public Health 2004; 7 (4): 362. www.hpa.org.uk/cdph/issues/CDPHvol7/No4/guidelines2_4_04.pdf

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with foreign counterparts on methods for tackling MRSA. [206354]

Ann Keen: Our strategy on healthcare associated infection "Clean, safe care" is based on the best available evidence from both the United Kingdom and elsewhere. To achieve this departmental officials have regular contact with experts both here and abroad. For example Professor Duerden, the Inspector of Microbiology and Infection Control was one of several UK and European experts speaking about the control of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* at the Society of General Microbiology international conference in April 2008.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many products were recommended to his Department by the Rapid Review Panel for *(a)* development for use in the NHS and *(b)* for trial in an NHS clinical setting in the last year for which information is available. [206358]

Ann Keen: The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) has reviewed 37 products in three meetings since May 2007.

Four products have demonstrated sufficient basic research and development, validation and recent in-use evaluations to enable the RRP to make a recommendation to the Department that the product should be made available to national health service bodies. This is a recommendation one.

Four products have been awarded a recommendation two stating that basic research and development has been completed and the product may have potential value; in use evaluations/trials are now needed in an NHS clinical setting. However, it is not within the remit of the RRP to clinically evaluate or undertake the evaluation of products within the NHS.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances a product or treatment may bypass a Rapid Review Panel assessment; and which *(a)* products and *(b)* treatments did so in each of the last three years for which information is available. [206359]

Ann Keen: The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) was convened by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) at the request of the Department. The RRP's role, as defined by the HPA and the Department, is

> 'to provide a prompt assessment of new and novel equipment, materials and other products or protocols that may be of value to the national health service in improving hospital infection control and reducing hospital acquired infections'.

Products do not bypass the RRP although some may fall outside the remit of the RRP.

NHS: Insurance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was recovered by hospitals from insurers towards the cost of treatment of persons injured in road accidents in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [206161]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Amounts recovered under the national health service injury cost recovery (ICR) schemes from 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Total (£)
2003-04	105,654,936
2004-05	117,504,738
2005-06	121,500,570
2006-07[1]	128,187,681
2007-08[1]	137,041,544

[1] The ICR scheme was expanded on 29 January 2007 to include all successful personal injury claims not just those arising from road traffic accidents. Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 include all recoveries under the expanded scheme.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time was for a claim for clinical negligence against his Department to be resolved in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* 1997; and if he will make a statement. [206122]

Ann Keen: In 2007-08, the average time for the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) to resolve a claim was 1.50 years for claims under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) and 5.36 years for claims under the Existing Liabilities Scheme (ELS) or the Ex-Regional Health Authorities Scheme (Ex-RHA).

Data for 1997-98 are not available as the NHSLA did not record date of settlement on their database until July 2000. The earliest year for which data can be provided for comparison is 2001-02, where the average time for the NHSLA to resolve a claim under CNST was 1.39 years and 3.67 years for ELS/Ex-RHA.

NHS: Private Sector

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of contracts in the NHS were awarded to non-British companies in each of the last five years; and what the value of these contracts was. [206345]

Mr. Bradshaw: The proportion of contracts in the national health service given to non-British companies and the total value of these contracts is not held centrally.

NHS: Students

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS student bursaries have been granted in the last five years; how many were granted to students from outside the EU; and how many people in receipt of such grants are working within the NHS. [205213]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service bursary holders for the academic years 2002 to 2007 (to date) are as follows:

	Number
2002	78,958
2003	84,467
2004	88,577

	Number
2005	91,597
2006	92,562
2007	87,800

Source:
National Health Service Business Services Authority Student Bursaries Unit.

Information about bursaries granted to students outside the European Union is not available. However, in order to be eligible for NHS bursary support, students offered a place on a NHS commissioned programme must be able to satisfy requirements of residency within the United Kingdom.

Information about how many people in receipt of NHS bursary awards are working in the NHS is not available.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the Answer of 22nd March 2007, *Official Report,* columns 1141-2W, on NHS: working hours, what monitoring of NHS readiness his Department has undertaken; and if he will place in the Library the results of such monitoring; [205857]

(2) what percentage of junior doctors worked a *(a)* 48 hour week, *(b)* 48 to 52 hour week, *(c)* 52 to 58 hour week and *(d)* 58 to 62 hour week in the latest period for which figures are available. [205858]

Ann Keen: European working time directive (EWTD) monitoring information is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of local employers to implement EWTD as part of their health and safety obligations.

Under the new deal contract for doctors in training, working hours monitoring information is collected by NHS Employers. The latest figures can be accessed on their website via www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-467.cfm. The new deal monitoring information provides a proxy to help the national health service with EWTD planning.

Nutrition: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS weight management programmes was in each primary care trust in each of the last three years. [206076]

Dawn Primarolo: It is up to primary care trusts (PCTs) to identify local priorities, with their partners, and to commission services accordingly. Figures on spend by PCTs on weight management programmes have not been collated centrally over the last three years so this information is not available. We have provided new money to PCTs from 2008-09 to take action on obesity as part of the overall allocations to the national health service. Levels of expenditure on weight management programmes will remain a matter for local areas.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Choose and Book system in South East London. [206376]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not undertaken a specific assessment of the effectiveness of the operation of choose and book in South East London. If required, this would be the responsibility of the local primary care trusts. In March 2008, choose and book utilisation in South East London was 33 per cent., compared with a London average of 39 per cent. and a national average of 45 per cent.

South East London includes Bromley, Greenwich Teaching, Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Bexley primary care trusts.

Solvents: Misuse

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of incidents of volatile substance abuse arising from the sale of butane cigarette lighter fuel in the latest period for which figures are available. [204489]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of 'incidents' of volatile substance abuse arising from the sale of butane cigarette lighter fuel is not collected centrally. However, the number of deaths associated with cigarette lighter refills are available and are provided as follows.

	Number
1971-1995	521
1996	42
1997	47
1998	43
1999	43
2000	34
2001	42
2002	37
2003	29
2004	25
2005	16

Source:
Trends in Death Associated with Abuse of Volatile Substances 1971-2005, St George's, University of London.

HOME DEPARTMENT

2 Marsham Street: Repairs and Maintenance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the refurbishment, repair and redecoration of 2 Marsham Street in the last two years. [202873]

Jacqui Smith: Refurbishment, repair and redecoration costs for 2 Marsham street over the past two years were not met directly as this responsibility was allocated to the supplier under the PFI contract for its design, construction and operation on behalf of the Department.

These costs are therefore covered by the annual PFI charge and are not held by the Department.

Alcohol Disorder Zones

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the establishment of alcohol disorder zones; and when such zones are planned to become operational. [190340]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not received any recent formal representations concerning alcohol disorder zones. The ADZ regulations have passed through both Houses of Parliament and we expect the regulations will be commenced in June 2008.

A copy of the updated guidance can be found on the Home Office website using the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/alcohol-disorder-zone-guidance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the introduction of alcohol disorder zones; and if she will make a statement. [193455]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable for the commencement of alcohol disorder zones is. [194397]

Mr. Coaker: The regulations in relation to alcohol disorder zones (ADZs) have passed through both Houses of Parliament, and we expect that they will be commenced in June 2008.

The updated guidance for ADZs is available on the Home Office website using the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/alcohol-disorder-zone-guidance

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the Prime Minister's comments on tackling binge drinking at her press conference on 28 January, what powers are available to local authorities to charge establishments selling alcohol to pay for additional policing. [183781]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: Sections 15 to 20 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 give local authorities the power to designate, with the consent of the police, a locality as an alcohol disorder zone (ADZ) where there is a problem with alcohol-related nuisance and disorder. Local authorities will have the power to impose charges on holders of premises licences allowing the sale by retail of alcohol and on holders of club premises certificates allowing the supply of alcohol to members and their guests.

The ADZ regulations have passed through both Houses of Parliament and are expected to be commenced in June 2008. A copy of the updated guidance can be found on the Home Office website using the link below:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/alcohol-disorder-zone-guidance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what figures her Department holds on levels of binge drinking among people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 24 and *(c)* over 24 years. [206021]

Mr. Coaker: There is no universally agreed definition of binge drinking, but the term has generally been used to describe a pattern of drinking that involves drinking alcohol to excess over a short period of time.

The Home Office published a study in 2006 (Underage drinking: findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey Matthews et al (2006) Home Office Findings 277) to explore the prevalence and nature of underage drinking and the relationship between alcohol consumption and offending among young people (10 to 17-years-old). The report can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/r277.pdf

The Home Office also published a study in 2005 (Findings from the 2003 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey: alcohol related crime and disorder, Matthews, S. and Richardson, A. (2005) Home Office Findings 261) which looked at the relationship between patterns of alcohol consumption and offending by 18 to 24-year-olds. This study does include some information on alcohol consumption relating to older age groups 25 to 25 and 36 to 65-years-old. The report can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/r261.pdf

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to tackle persistent antisocial behaviour offenders; [206409]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to work with local authorities to reduce antisocial behaviour. [206410]

Mr. Coaker: Over the past 10 years this Government have introduced a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour which are being used by practitioners to bring relief to communities across the country.

On 8 May we announced a number of new measures to tackle antisocial behaviour by the persistent minority who fail to respond to early interventions as identified by the National Audit Office. These are:

> A crackdown on the most troublesome offenders to expose wider criminal behaviour, including benefit fraud, television license evasion, vehicle tax and insurance dodging and non-payment of council tax. Their antisocial behaviour will be the trigger for further investigation to find out if their car tax is up to date, or if they have a TV license, or pay their council tax. This will be done by spreading good practice such as that adopted by Essex police in Operation Leopard.
>
> A joint review by the Home Office and the Department for Transport to look at ways to tackle ASB on public transport. We will consult the public, drivers and other transport staff on their views.
>
> A new national Action Squad of ASB experts who will troubleshoot across the country to focus on targeting areas that are not using the antisocial behaviour measures available to them or where the perception of ASB is low. The public must not suffer needlessly while available remedies go unused. This is backed by £255,000 of new funding.

We have recently introduced measures in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 to close premises where there is serious and persistent antisocial behaviour which are due to be implemented next year. We have also issued new guidance on how to use the full range of the tools and powers available and to better protect victims and witnesses who take a stand against antisocial behaviour.

The Home Office works with local areas through regional Government offices providing funding through the Area-Based Grant. We also delivered 16 regional workshops nationally to help local practitioners make the best use of the available tools and powers. We will continue to encourage and support local areas in this way.

Armed Forces: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Visiting Forces Act 1952 was invoked to prevent prosecution of US military personnel under UK law in each year since 1997. [206143]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

The Visiting Forces Act 1952 (the Act) was passed to incorporate the provisions of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement 1951 into United Kingdom law. The Act lays down a formula to decide whether the military authorities of the visiting force or the UK authorities should have the primary right to bring a prosecution. The provisions of the Act therefore do not prevent a prosecution under the UK law, but ensure that an individual only faces charges under one criminal jurisdiction.

Children: Protection

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of suspected child exploitation were received by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) from My Space via the US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in the last 12 months; and what the length of time between each report being filed by a UK customer and its receipt by CEOP in each case was. [204693]

Mr. Coaker: As far as the Home Office is aware, My Space as a US based company comply with US law and regulations on reporting child abuse content to the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). As we understand it this does not extend to contact offences such as grooming. CEOP and NCMEC have a co-operative relationship through the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) and CEOP can receive reports on child abuse images from them. In the last reporting year CEOP have received nine reports of child abuse images from NCMEC. We do not hold any information on the original date that the matter was reported to My Space, and so cannot comment on any possible time lapse in that part of the process.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204110]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office participates in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund which is co-ordinated by DEFRA. This ensures the Department offsets carbon dioxide emissions from its official air travel. Figures for 2006-07 (the only year for which data have been published) are set out as follows. These data covers some business areas that are now part of Ministry of Justice.

2006-07

Includes:	*Cost (£)*
Core HO, Identity and Passport Service, and UK Borders Agency and Forensic Science Service	38,993.24

Departmental Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to encourage volunteering among its employees in the last three years. [204930]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office has long recognised that staff who undertake voluntary work not only benefit the communities in which they live and work, but also bring back valuable skills and experience into the workplace. The Home Office also recognises that volunteering has an important part to play in the personal development of staff.

During 2005, the year of the volunteer, the Home Office worked with community service volunteers (CSV) and Volunteering England to promote employee volunteering both widely and among its own staff. This involved a series of talks and presentations from CSV and providing advice to match staff to suitable volunteering opportunities, both individually and in teams.

Following this, the Home Office refreshed and developed its employee volunteering strategy, which now includes:

Allowing up to five days' paid leave (or the equivalent in hours) to enable staff to undertake volunteering in work time. This can be done on an individual basis or as part of a team;

Allowing additional paid leave to enable staff to take part in volunteering in the public service, such as carrying out school governor duties, magistrate duties, etc;

Recognising the importance of employee volunteering by encouraging managers to include it as a personal development activity in the annual staff appraisal system;

Regularly inviting charities and volunteering organisations into Home Office buildings to hold seminars or set up stands with promotional materials;

Having a dedicated volunteering manager to help staff identify suitable volunteering opportunities;

Promoting volunteering opportunities through features in staff magazines and on the Home Office staff intranet sites;

Ensuring that all new members of staff are made aware of volunteering opportunities;

Maintaining active membership of Westminster Time and Talents, an initiative which matches volunteers with opportunities in the Westminster area;

Funding employees to participate in the Prince's Trust Team programme, both as team leaders and team members;

Running an annual programme of up to 50 three to six month funded secondments to the voluntary sector and encouraging staff to maintain volunteering links with those charities at the end of the secondment;

Encouraging staff to take part in two seasonal volunteering activities: Jeans for Genes day and the Westminster City Challenge.

Deportation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attempts to deport people to *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Algeria and *(c)* Jordan have failed in the last five years. [200507]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Details of total removals to Algeria, Jordan and Libya between 2004 and 2007, the only period for which we have access to management information, are in the following table:

Destination	*Number of removals*			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*[1]	*2007*[1]
Total removals[2] to Algeria	265	325	390	400
Refused entry at port and subsequently removed[3, 4]	45	70	70	80
Removed as a result of enforcement action and voluntary departures[5]	185	215	210	280
Left under AVR programmes	35	45	110	40
Total removals[2] to Jordan	50	60	90	115
Refused entry at port and subsequently removed[3, 4]	25	15	25	25
Removed as a result of enforcement action and voluntary departures[4]	20	35	60	70
Left under AVR programmes	10	5	10	20
Total removals[2] to Libya	50	90	110	140
Refused entry at port and subsequently removed[3, 4]	15	35	35	35
Removed as a result of enforcement action and voluntary departures[5]	30	55	60	90
Left under AVR programmes[6]	[7]—	[7]—	15	10

[1] Provisional.

[2] Includes enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls).

[4] Includes removals which have been performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers.

[5] Established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[6] Includes persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[7] Figures rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, * = one or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

Notes:

1. Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration.
2. May include some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.

Driving Offences

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she and Ministers in her Department have had with the police and the Association of Chief Police Officers on proposals for a new offence of aggravated failure to stop for the police. [204906]

Mr. Coaker: The Metropolitan Police Commissioner has written on this issue to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and it has been raised informally with me by the Head of Uniformed Operations for the Association of Chief Police Officers. Having considered the proposals very carefully I am not persuaded that such an offence is needed in addition to the powers already available to the police.

Drugs: Imports

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the countries of origin of illegal drugs imported into the UK were in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007, giving the percentage of illegal imports from each. [205425]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 May 2008]:* For 1997, the NCIS UK Threat Assessment showed that Spain represented the traditional route for cocaine entering Europe, because of the extensive cultural links with South America; and other routes through Africa and East Europea and Eurasia were becoming more important (no percentages are available). Interpol estimated that 80-90 per cent. of heroin trafficked to Western Europe originated from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. 60-80 per cent. of cannabis resin supplied to Western Europe originated from Morocco.

For 2007, the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) estimates that 80-85 per cent. of the cocaine being trafficked to the UK originated in Colombia. The remaining 15-20 per cent. was believed to have originated from Peru/Bolivia/Ecuador. Almost all the opium used to manufacture heroin imported into the

UK originated in Afghanistan; with the actual manufacture of heroin from opium base taking place in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. (Data are not held on the respective percentages for manufacture.) The majority of herbal cannabis originated in Morocco and South East Asia; skunk cannabis in the Netherlands; and cannabis resin in Jamaica and parts of Africa (no percentages are available).

Amphetamines originated from a variety of European countries, primarily the Netherlands and Belgium (no percentages are available).

Entry Clearances: Criminal Records

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those with *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary visas to reside in the UK have a criminal record. [204153]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The requested information can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many multiple entry visitor visas were issued to citizens of Pakistan in each year since 1997. [204528]

Mr. Byrne: Only since October 2000 have visit visas been valid for multiple entries into the UK. The total number of visit visas issued by our high commission in Islamabad and our deputy high commission in Karachi in each year since 2001 is shown as follows. Figures are not available at present for 2006-07.

	Number of visit visas issued
2001-02	67,620
2002-03	42,041
2003-04	71,122
2004-05	80,999
2005-06	80,601

Source:
Entry Clearance Annual Statistics

Forensic Science Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation of the options for the future of the Forensic Science Service has been undertaken; who was commissioned to undertake the evaluation; when it was commissioned; what the estimated cost was; and if she will place in the Library a synopsis of the evaluation report. [205504]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* We have yet to reach a decision on the future status of the Forensic Science Service Ltd. We are currently considering advice based upon contributions from a number of sources, including a review commissioned and paid for from McKinseys by the FSS board last autumn. The review on shaping the future market of forensic science services, while helpful, was specifically aimed at the broader context and did not consider status options for the FSS itself. We intend to publish soon plans for the future delivery of forensic science to the Criminal Justice System which will include a decision on the future status of the Forensic Science Service.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on changes to the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004 which may be required to enable the Government to implement the Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking. [204632]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office has no record of representations being received on this particular issue. Consideration of whether this Act is compatible with the convention was undertaken as part of our wider assessment of the UK's compliance and it was judged that the legislation was already compliant and that no changes were required.

Identity Cards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the identity card will hold details of eligibility for NHS care; [202323]

(2) what links she has considered between the identity card programme and the European Health Insurance Card. [202324]

Meg Hillier: Eligibility for NHS care will not be held on identity cards and there will be no linkage with the European Health Insurance Card.

Immigration: Pakistan

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spouses of UK citizens from Pakistan left the marital home within two years and *(a)* were deported, *(b)* were granted leave to remain and *(c)* are believed still to be in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [204529]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immobilisation of Vehicles: Scotland

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has commissioned research into the effect of banning wheelclamping on private land in Scotland. [206068]

Mr. Coaker: The position in Scotland is determined by case law which has determined that wheel-clamping on private land amounted to theft and the demand of a release fee amounted to extortion under Scottish law.

Neither the Home Office nor the Scottish Executive have commissioned research into wheel-clamping on private land in Scotland.

Licensed Premises: Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on licensed premises:

non-domestic rates, what estimate her Department has made of the maximum charge in cash terms that can be levied per year on a business in an alcohol disorder zone; and what the commencement date is for councils to be able to designate and implement such zones. [184994]

Mr. Coaker: There is no maximum charge that can be levied on a business in respect of the charges relating to an alcohol disorder zone. The charging mechanism is explained fully in the updated guidance for ADZs which can be accessed via the Home Office website using the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/alcohol-disorder-zone-guidance

The ADZ regulations have passed through both Houses of Parliament and we expect that they will be commenced in June 2008.

Licensing

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on supermarkets which sell alcoholic liquor and their obligations under the implementation of alcohol action zones; and if she will make a statement. [181575]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* Supermarkets which sell alcoholic liquor are not excluded from the obligations imposed by an alcohol disorder zone (ADZ). However, local authorities will need to consider, on a case by case basis, whether a supermarket or other retail outlet passes both the principal use test and the patronage test.

The ADZ regulations have passed through both Houses of Parliament and we expect commencement to take place in June 2008. A copy of the updated guidance can be found on the Home Office website using the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/alcohol-disorder-zone-guidance

Parking Offences: West Sussex

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parking tickets were issued by police community support officers in *(a)* Adur District Council, *(b)* Arun District Council, *(c)* Chichester District Council, *(d)* Crawley Borough Council, *(e)* Hastings Borough Council, *(f)* Horsham District Council, *(g)* Lewes District Council, *(h)* Mid Sussex District Council, *(i)* Rother District Council, *(j)* Wealden District Council and *(k)* Worthing Borough Council (i) between January and June 2007, (ii) between July and December 2007 and (iii) since January 2008. [202188]

Mr. Coaker: Fixed penalties for parking offences can be issued by police officers and traffic wardens. Police community support officers (PCSOs) can only issue parking tickets if they have been separately appointed as traffic wardens and wear the prescribed uniform for someone who is both a PCSO and a traffic warden. The number of parking tickets issued in Sussex by PCSOs appointed as traffic wardens is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Information and Communications Technology

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines her Department has issued to police forces on their use of common IT software programmes to facilitate information sharing; and if she will make a statement. [200970]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* In July 2006, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA) and the Home Office jointly published the Information Systems Strategy for the Police Service (ISS4PS). The strategy advises police forces and their authorities, as well as organisations that deliver national projects and services to the police service, to use the ISS4PS as a reference framework to plan information and communications technology services. This includes the development and implementation of systems in accordance with agreed standards, including those for software.

As part of the work it is doing to deliver a Police National Database, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) IMPACT Programme is producing data quality standards to ensure that force information can be shared in a consistent and compatible manner. The responsibility for the management, and use of information within the police service, rests with the chief officer of the police force that owns the information. The Management of Police Information (MoPI) Statutory Code of Practice issued to forces in November 2005 sets out the key principles and processes for the management of police information. Guidance was issued on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers in 2006 to accompany the Code and the NPIA is helping forces implement that guidance in all forces by 2010 as part of the IMPACT programme.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT software programmes are used by each police force to deal with *(a)* enforcement of licensing laws, *(b)* vehicle crime and *(c)* firearms crime. [200971]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The day to day management of a force is the responsibility of the chief constable and their police authority. Records of software products that are used in force to deal with *(a)* enforcement of licensing laws, *(b)* vehicle crime and *(c)* firearms crime are not held centrally.

Road Traffic Offences: Cycling

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalties were issued to cyclists who contravened road safety laws in *(a)* England and *(b)* Manchester Central constituency in the last 12 months. [206519]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Road Traffic: Census

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason police officers are conducting a traffic census on Rochester Row and

Warwick Way, London SW1 during May 2008; what the census is seeking to achieve; and if she will make a statement. [206522]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* I understand from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis that the traffic census in Rochester Row and in Warwick Way was conducted on 14 May 2008 not by police officers but by agents acting on behalf of Transport for London (TfL).

This was part of a continuing traffic survey held at multiple sites over the week commencing 12 May 2008. Police officers were present to stop vehicles and direct their drivers to the survey points.

The information collected will help in the future planning process and policy development by enabling TfL to assess such issues as the impact of the central London congesting charging scheme on traffic levels, the demand for car parks in central London, the effects of road works on traffic flow and the effects of fuel cost increases on traffic levels.

Terrorism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff in her Department work on the *(a)* Pursue, *(b)* Protect and (c) Prepare strands of the Contest counter-terrorism strategy. [202874]

Jacqui Smith: The Pursue, Protect and Prepare strands of the Government's strategy for counter-terrorism are dealt with in the Home Office by the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT). The Home Office also works with other Government Departments and agencies on these strands. Currently: 41 full-time equivalent Home Office staff are engaged directly on Pursue; 41.5 full-time equivalent Home Office staff are engaged directly on Protect; and, 34.6 full-time equivalent Home Office staff are engaged directly on Prepare. These numbers are subject to change in accordance with overall priorities. In addition, there are other members of staff in the Home Office who contribute to these strands of work as part of their wider responsibilities for counter-terrorism.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged over the failed car bomb attacks on London and Glasgow in June 2007. [204411]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* Six individuals were arrested in the UK in relation to the failed car bomb attacks on London and Glasgow in June 2007. Of the six, three individuals were charged and three individuals were released without charge.

Unfair Practices: Sales Methods

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the City of London Police on illegal share sales by boiler room operations; and if she will make a statement. [206946]

Mr. Coaker: I visited the City of London Police Economic Crime Department in July last year to discuss a number of fraud related issues, including their work on boiler room fraud.

The Home Office provides the City of London Police with additional funding over and above police grant each year to enable the force to operate as a "lead force" for investigating serious and complex fraud not confined to the Square Mile. This extra funding has enabled City to expand its Economic Crime Department and, among other things, establish Operation Archway, the national intelligence reporting system for boiler room fraud. Operation Archway has worked closely with other agencies, including police forces in this country and abroad, and a number of arrests have been made. Home Office officials are in regular contact with City of London police officers and receive regular updates about Operation Archway.

Written Questions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer question 182216, tabled by the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden on 22 January 2008, on websites shut down for terrorism-related reasons; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [193571]

Jacqui Smith: I replied to the right hon. Gentleman on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1326W. My Department makes every effort to answer all parliamentary questions within the timescales set by the House however this is not always possible.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer question 183418, tabled by the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden on 28 January 2008, on Project Contest; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [193583]

Jacqui Smith: I replied to the right hon. Gentleman on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1949W. My Department makes every effort to answer all parliamentary questions within the timescales set by the House however this is not always possible.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 22 May 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203851]

Mr. Woodward: I will publish in due course a list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in this Department in the 2007-08 financial year.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its Executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200760]

Mr. Woodward: For the most recent information available, I refer the hon. Member to the NIO Resource Accounts, a copy of which can be found at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/nio_resource_accounts_2006_-_2007.pdf

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 930W, on departmental public participation, how much each *(a)* survey, *(b)* questionnaire and *(c)* other service cost; and how many participants there were in each. [205449]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Survey by	*Cost (inclusive of VAT)*	*Number of participants*
Millward Brown Ulster	£21,385.00	1,422
NI Statistics and Research Agency	Survey 1: £338,398.83 Survey 2: £42,424.84 (total of three modules) Module 1: £15,510.00 Module2: £15,752.34 Module 3: £11,162.50	[1]4,000 [2]1,238
SMR (Social and Market Research)	No breakdown available to show the cost of the survey and focus groups. The total cost which included an evaluation exercise was £29,345.63. This cost was split between three partners, making the NIO contribution £9,781.88	Survey: 769 Nine Focus Groups: 57

[1] The figure of 4,000 participants refers to the target number of participants as the final number of achieved interviews is not yet known.

[2] As the three modules were part of the one survey, each had the same number of participants.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205178]

Mr. Woodward: During 2007-08, the following amounts were spent by the Northern Ireland Office, its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies on translation and interpretation services, broken down by language.

Language	*Cost (£)*
Sign Language	20,066.35
French	21,592.38
Polish	263,900.45
Cantonese	14,739.32
Portuguese	63,045.53
Lithuanian	238,146.92
Slovakian	43,615.12
Latvian	34,139.36
Braille	380.94
Irish	1,341.58
Mandarin	50,381.39
Ulster Scots	432.74
Cypriot	1,956.39
Czech	11,437.05
Flemish	583.72
German	9,459.61
Romanian	45,207.86
Spanish	16,141.22
Swedish	1,185.25
Thai	3,023.72
Turkish	4,223.32
Bengali	7,694.36
Chinese	69.00
Farsi	1,265.02

Language	*Cost (£)*
Greek	16.50
Hindi	776.82
Hungarian	19,347.49
Russian	86,380.86
Ukrainian	514.96
Vietnamese	366.00
Arabic	15,707.17
Estonian	816.61
Bulgarian	5,864.89
Bengali	3,643.28
Tetum	4,344.54
Urdu	1,940.96
Italian	1,858.17
Georgian	1,064.66
Albanian	2,251.17
Tagalog	876.21
Dutch	354.45
Serbian	184.50
Punjabi	184.28
Malayalam	1,658.88
Afghan Pashto	254.30
Telephone Interpreting for Police Service NI (45 various languages, mainly ethnic minority)	64,919.00
Police Service NI, Translations (breakdown of various languages not available)	177,619.00
Others (mainly ethnic minority)	2,252.75
Total	1,247,226.05

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for the Government Equalities Office in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200007]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office has not directly commissioned any polling companies to provide surveys, questionnaires and other services during the financial year 2007-08 but has worked with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the Citizenship Survey; worked with the Office for Disability Issues on the ONS Omnibus Survey and part-funded research into the public sector duties carried out by Schneider Ross.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will break down the most recent number of apprenticeships by *(a)* region, *(b)* industrial sector, *(c)* sex and *(d)* whether or not the apprenticeships were at advanced level in each case. [203927]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is contained in tables, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206797]

Mr. Lammy: The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government Changes in June 2007.

The Government skills strategy "Building Professional Skills for Government" was launched in April this year. This includes a commitment to establish 500 additional Pathfinder apprenticeships from September 2008. Neither the Department nor its agencies have such apprenticeship arrangements in place yet. Government Skills are leading on implementation and plan to launch the Pathfinder apprenticeships over the summer.

Apprentices: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in Vale of York constituency in each of the last three years. [206677]

Mr. Lammy: Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level. Information for North Yorkshire and York is provided in the following table.

Local authority[1]	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Apprenticeship starts for the last three years			
North Yorkshire[2]	4,469	3,489	3,228
York	772	586	649
Apprenticeship completions for 2003-04 to 2005-06			
North Yorkshire[2]	1,368	1,543	2,171
York	153	226	343

[1] Indicates a local authority that has more than 10 per cent. of apprentices funded by the MOD.

[2] Data given allocate apprentices by their home postcode, where a learner is engaged in residential learning for the MOD they are allocated the LA of where they are based.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204393]

Mr. Denham: Since the creation of the Department in June 2007, I have not visited Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland in an official capacity.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since its establishment. [204765]

Mr. Lammy: 27 statutory instruments, general and local, have been made and 34 revoked by Ministers of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills since its establishment on 28 June 2007.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 809W, on departmental public participation, what the *(a)* cost, *(b)* subject and *(c)* number of respondents was for each (i) survey, (ii) questionnaire and (iii) other service. [206031]

Mr. Lammy: The following table states the following *(a)* cost, *(b)* subject and *(c)* number of respondents; for each of the services provided by the companies.

Service provided	*Name of company*	*Method*	*Number of respondents*	*Total cost (£)*
Student finance messaging research	Define Research and Insight Ltd	Qualitative interview—groups	128	57,595.00
Student finance creative research	Define Research and Insight Ltd	Qualitative interview—groups	104	41,780.00
Student finance tracking research	Continental Research	Quantitative—face-to-face interview	2,040	111,787.50
Student finance—insights	Define Research and Insight Ltd	Qualitative interview—groups and depths interview	36	18,800.00
HSE student support England 2007-08	Jigsaw Research Ltd	Quantitative—face-to-face interview	784	57,000.00
Student finance—DVD research	Continental Research	Quantitative—telephone survey	200	12,500.00
Define messages for parents on student finance	Seventy 2 Point	Qualitative—survey	770	2,200

Higher Education: Business

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(b)* the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship on a national network of university enterprise clusters. [206943]

Bill Rammell: In line with its strategies for enterprise, innovation, and high level skills, Government announced an additional £300,000 per annum of funding for the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) for it to establish university enterprise networks. Ministers in this Department and that of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have asked officials to ensure that NCGE bring forward robust plans to develop and manage networks of higher education institutions which will encourage widespread adoption of best practice in enterprise education.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he has plans to exempt those undertaking a Masters level course in Teaching and Learning from the policy of not funding students on courses that lead to qualifications equivalent to or lower than they already hold. [207201]

Bill Rammell: Students who already hold one Masters level qualification and want to study another higher education qualification at an equivalent or lower level will not be exempt from the general ELQ policy. They will only attract institutional funding if the course relates to the initial training of teachers or is co-funded by employers. But because the policy is a redistribution of funding and not a withdrawal, it will allow more students than would be possible under the current system to progress from an undergraduate level qualification to a Masters level course in Teaching and Learning.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to answer the letter of 7 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton, with regard to Dr. J. Byrne. [203888]

Mr. Lammy: I replied to the hon. Member's letter on 7 May 2008.

Science: Voluntary Organisations

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with which third sector organisations his Department is working as a strategic partner on projects relating to science and innovation. [206299]

Ian Pearson: DIUS is working with a number of strategic partners from the third sector on projects related to science and innovation including the Association of Medical Research Charities, the Leverhulme Trust, the Wellcome Trust, the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the British Academy, the UK Resource Centre for Women in SET, STEMNET, The British Association for the Advancement of Science, Ecsite-uk, the Gatsby Foundation, Demos and the Foundation for Science and Technology.

Students: Fees and Charges

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of equalising the tuition fee arrangements of part-time first-degree students with those of full-time first-degree students; and if he will make a statement. [202816]

Bill Rammell: There are around 200,000 part-time first degree undergraduates compared to around one million full-time. To estimate the cost to the public purse of giving part-time students the same tuition fee arrangements is complicated due to their diverse nature. We can give very broad estimates based on the assumptions we hold for full-time students and replicating the exact same package of support. This enables us to estimate the resource cost of fee loans in the region of £150 million per year if all part-time students had fees of £3,000 per year; and £75 million if we assume they are studying at 50 per cent. intensity and are charged fees of £1,500 per year.

These estimates assume that part-time students are identical to full-time students in every respect except they are part-time. They are highly dependent on uncertain factors such as eligibility for and take-up of support, level of fees charged and earnings following completion of the course, all of which have been assumed the same as for full-time students.

This Government was the first to introduce statutory support for part-time students, in 2000/01. In 2006/07, we introduced the most generous package of financial support ever for part-time students in England. This included increasing the maximum fee grant by 27 per cent. and an above-inflation increase in the income threshold for receiving this support. The part-time package is different from the support available to full-time students because it has been designed to meet the particular needs of part-time students. Unlike full-time students, many part-time students are in full-time employment—two thirds according to the Woodley report, published at the end of 2004. That report also found that 36 per cent. of part-time students receive full fee support from their employer. We must ensure that statutory student support is carefully focussed to achieve maximum benefit.

Training: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to require employers which recruit immigrant labour to fund training and skills programmes for British workers. [206843]

Mr. Lammy: We have no current plans to require employers to fund skills training for British workers. However, as announced by the Prime Minister, we will be consulting on a new right to request time to train. The new right would require employers to consider seriously requests from employees for time away from their mainstream duties to undertake relevant training. From this autumn employers will need to prove that they cannot fill skilled vacancies with resident labour or that they are recruiting into recognised skill shortage areas before employing skilled migrant labour. Employers, individuals and the Government must all improve their efforts and investment if we are to deliver our ambition of a world class skills base. Train to Gain has engaged almost 83,000 employers with more then 390,000 workers starting learning programmes. We have ambitious plans to expand Train to Gain with increased funding from around £520 million this year to over £1 billion in 2010.

Vocational Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what role the *(a)* Skills Funding Agency and *(b)* Young People's Learning Agency will play in local authority involvement in skills training. [205439]

Mr. Lammy: The White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver' published March 2008 sets out plans to respond to the education and skills challenges for young people and adults. It outlines the roles of the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).

The SFA will be responsible for the demand-led services for adults and employers incorporating Train to Gain and skills accounts. It will underpin a new Adult Advancement and Careers Agency, the National Employer Service and the National Apprenticeship Service. The SFA will have a national and regional presence as well as having a role sub-regionally, working with local authorities and other partners to support local area agreements (LAAs) and Employment and Skills boards.

The YPLA will be responsible for supporting local authorities in discharging their new strategic commissioning role for 16 to 18 education and training. We anticipate that the YPLA will be established as a non-departmental public body (NDPB) and that its governance will include representatives of the key delivery partners, including local authorities. Its primary role will be to moderate the commissioning plans of local authorities for the purpose of budgetary control and ensuring that the new curriculum entitlement is delivered across every area of the country. Similar to the SFA, the YPLA will have both a national and regional presence.

Further details of the roles of the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) are set out in the White Paper. The consultation period for the White Paper ends on 9 June 2008 and we are currently running consultation events in each region with a range of stakeholders including local authorities.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Cadets: Armed Forces

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his proposals for cadet forces will involve changes in the level of funding for existing combined cadet forces (CCF) units in schools; what estimate he has made of CCF funding per CCF member in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2000, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [200528]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

Cadet Forces, where affiliated to the MOD, are wholly funded by a combination of MOD resources and charitable funding raised by the Cadet Forces' own endeavours. The present funding for the current MOD affiliated membership will not be affected by any initiative from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. CCF funding per CCF member is summarised in the following table:

	Number of CCF Cadets	*Funding per Cadet (£)*
2000	40,551	328
2007	42,593	312

Note: The change in funding is as the result of efficiency gains over the past three years such as improved property management.

The number of CCF members in 1997 is not known. Funding for 2010 is not yet allocated, nor has the number of likely Cadets been estimated.

Our aspiration, shared by our colleagues in the DCSF, is to increase the opportunity for as many young people as possible, from all backgrounds, to experience the benefits of the Cadet experience.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres were open on *(a)* 31 March and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available. [207078]

Beverley Hughes: On 31 March 2008 there were 2,906 Sure Start children's centres. As of 21 May there are 2,907 designated centres. Local authorities are currently planning the final phase of the delivery of children's centres so that by 2010 there will be 3,500 centres, one for every community.

Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions he has visited Essex in the last 12 months. [204972]

Kevin Brennan: Ministers in the Department for Children, Schools and Families have visited Essex three times since June 2007. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will reply to Question 200528 on school cadet forces, tabled on 18 April 2008 by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. [203955]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 7 May, 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

I replied to the hon. Member today.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Freedom of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether it is the Commission's policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials of the House of Commons, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what the Commission's assessment is of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207218]

Nick Harvey: The terms of Freedom of Information Act 2000 require that each request for information held by the House of Commons is treated on its merits. The implications referred to would depend on the scope of any such request.

Parliament: Waste Management

Justine Greening: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much waste was *(a)* produced *(b)* recycled and *(c)* incinerated by the Parliamentary Estate in each year from 2002 to 2007. [202189]

Nick Harvey: The quantities of waste *(a)* produced, *(b)* recycled and *(c)* incinerated by the parliamentary estate in each financial year from 2002 to 2008 are given as follows:

Waste

Tonnes

	(a) Produced	*(b) Recycled*	*(c) Incinerated*
2002-03	2,767	699	2,068
2003-04	2,319	608	1,711
2004-05	1,916	561	1,355
2005-06	2,101	801	1,300
2006-07	2,035	862	1,173
2007-08	1,989	954	1,035

In the previous answer to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1542W, a figure of 2,252 tonnes was given for the total waste produced in the 2005-06 financial year. This total included waste deposited in builders' skips; all the other years' figures excluded this waste stream and the 2005-06 totals have been amended to ensure a consistent approach.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what estimate she has made of the proportion of jobs relating to the 2012 Olympic games which will go to women; [204694]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to increase the proportion of women employed in jobs relating to the 2012 Olympic games. [204695]

Tessa Jowell: As of May 2008 the percentage of women working for the Olympic Delivery Authority

(ODA), or their contractors, was 11.9 per cent. This figure includes all women involved in construction, management, administration, professional, consultant and design and also incorporates the small number of venues outside the Olympic Park. Going forward, the ODA in conjunction with the London Development Agency is establishing a "Women into Construction" project that will focus on supporting women working directly on the construction programme for the 2012 games.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has a strong diversity and inclusion policy for the recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers that covers gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age. This will be regularly monitored for its effectiveness, and builds on the prominence of diversity and equality as key components of London's bid for the games.

Five of the 11 members of LOCOG's Management Committee as published on its website are women.

LOCOG also requests equal opportunities policies from potential suppliers, which are also a requirement of CompeteFor (the online brokerage service by which companies register for contracts connected to the games).

As of May 2008 the percentage of women employed in the Government Olympic Executive is 37.5 per cent.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government plans to increase troop numbers in Afghanistan. [206717]

Des Browne: We keep the size and scale of the UK military commitment to Afghanistan under regular review and will make further adjustments where necessary, as we have in the past.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual *(a)* capital and *(b)* running cost of a regional rehabilitation unit has been in the last three years. [199494]

Derek Twigg: The MOD has 15 Regional Rehabilitation Units (RRUs) in the UK and Germany. Responsibility for their individual management is shared between the single Service commands, with oversight from the Joint Medical Command. However, each Service funds its respective RRUs differently, with funding provision coming from a variety of areas, which are not uniquely identifiable, before being subsumed within the overall establishment or Station budget.

RRUs are not always located within discrete sole-use buildings and the average capital costs could therefore only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

The average annual staffing costs of a typical RRU is £477,600.

On average, each of the RRUs will spend approximately £10,000 per annum replacing and servicing equipment.

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding was allocated to the armed forces for expenditure on equipment in each year since 1997. [205765]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Outturn expenditure on the procurement of equipment (including both military and non-military equipment used by Service and civilian personnel) from 1997-98 has been published annually in UK Defence Statistics (UKDS) by the Defence Analytical Services Agency. UKDS can be found at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

and are available in the Library of the House.

However, data are not consistent across this period because of internal changes in responsibility for Defence equipment procurement and the introduction of Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB). Figures were produced on a cash basis until 2000-01. Full implementation of these accounting changes meant it was not possible to produce figures for the period 2001-02 to 2002-03 that were consistent for these years since the full adoption of RAB across the Department was not completed until 2003-04. A new data series using full RAB accounting has been produced annually since 2003-04. Outturn figures for 2007-08 will be published in UKDS 2008 later in the year.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any officials in his Department were disciplined or dismissed for *(a)* breaches of data protection requirements and *(b)* inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205905]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Eco-Towns: Land

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 837-38W, on eco-towns, (1) in which of the shortlisted sites his Department has sold or otherwise disposed of land in the last 10 years under arrangements whereby his Department would benefit from a future sale of the land; [207155]

(2) what estimate he has made of the sale price *(a)* before and *(b)* after shortlisting of (i) the sites owned by his Department and (ii) sites sold by his Department in the last 10 years. [207164]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence would benefit from a further sale of land at the following locations sold within the last 10 years: RE Long Marston Depot, RAF Coltishall and Bordon-Whitehill.

There are far too many variables at this early stage in the consultation process and we have therefore not made estimates of the value of sites before or after shortlisting.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what basis service personnel qualify for *(a)* an Iraq Medal and *(b)* bars to the Iraq Medal; what changes have been made to this procedure since the conflict began; and if he will make a statement. [206902]

Derek Twigg: The qualification criteria for the Iraq Medal and clasp are published in Command Paper 6135 presented to Parliament in February 2004 and subsequently amended by Command Paper 6936 dated October 2006, copies of which were placed in the Library of the House. On 5 December 2007 Her Majesty the Queen approved a further amendment to the criteria for all current operational medals to include those whose qualifying service is prematurely curtailed by imprisonment, detention or internment.

Members: Correspondence

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to write to those hon. Members who raised issues but did not receive a response from the Minister for the Armed Forces during the debate on defence in the world on 8 May 2008. [206629]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As is usual following Defence debates in the House, responses will be sent by myself and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence to a number of hon. and right hon. Members—including the hon. Member—on issues which, due to time constraints, I was unable to address fully in my closing speech. Copies of these letters will also be placed in the Library of the House.

Navy: Piracy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 840W, on the Navy: piracy, whether pirates arrested at sea by the Royal Navy are *(a)* taken on board Her Majesty's ships and *(b)* rendered to UK jurisdiction; and what discussions his Department has had with officials in the Home Department on the potential for such pirates to claim asylum in the United Kingdom. [206628]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our records suggest that no pirates have been arrested by the Royal Navy since the Second World War. If a pirate were to be arrested, they would remain in UK custody until such time as they were either lawfully transferred to another nation or returned to the UK criminal justice system.

MOD officials regularly liaise across Whitehall on issues relating to operations, including on piracy.

First World War: Anniversaries

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what national plans there are to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the First World War armistice in 2008. [206279]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made today.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Culture Leadership Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* placements, *(b)* courses, *(c)* coaching opportunities and *(d)* mentoring opportunities have been organised by the Cultural Leadership Programme; and how many people have taken part in each of these types of activity. [206240]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 16 May 2008]*: An evaluation of the Cultural Leadership Programme (CLP) is currently under way. The CLP is in the process of collating output data from partner organisations and institutions and therefore the full impact of the programme is not available yet. The Department expects to receive the evaluation in early autumn 2008.

Gambling: Internet

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has made to the United States administration on the effect of US law on UK business interests in the United States, with particular reference to *(a)* online gambling companies and *(b)* companies providing financial services to the online gambling sector. [206563]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The UK maintains a constructive relationship with the US Administration in relation to a wide variety of subjects within the broad spectrum of trade issues, including those relating to gambling.

Officials have raised the concerns of the gambling industry with the relevant US authorities, and will continue to do so when appropriate opportunities present themselves.

PRIME MINISTER

Airports

Justine Greening: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his statement on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392, on the draft legislative programme, to which decisions on airports he was referring. [207082]

The Prime Minister: The Government's policy on aviation is set out in 'The Future of Air Transport' White Paper (CM 6046), December 2003; 'The Future of Air Transport Progress Report' (CM 6977), December 2006; and the consultation on Heathrow Airport—'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport', November 2007.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Landfill

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of using incineration to reduce use of landfill; and if he will make a statement. [206753]

Joan Ruddock: Recovering energy from waste (including via incineration) can offer a considerable climate change benefit compared to the alternative of landfill. This is primarily through avoided landfill methane emissions, with energy generated from the biodegradable fraction of waste also offsetting fossil fuel power generation.

While incineration is preferable to landfill, this should not displace waste from management further up the hierarchy (e.g. minimisation, reuse, recycling/composting).

Meat: Smuggling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to prevent the importing of bush meat. [206294]

Joan Ruddock: While there is no precise definition for bush meat, it is generally understood to mean the meat of wild animals hunted for food, derived mainly from Central and West African countries.

Where the animals that have been hunted are rare or endangered they may be listed and their international trade controlled on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), an international agreement signed by 172 countries including the UK, which aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

In a recent study commissioned jointly by DEFRA and HMRC, of 230 samples DMA tested just five were found to be from CITES listed species. The summary report is available on the DEFRA website.

Additionally, while bush meat is not thought to be a significant risk to animal health in the UK as it does not enter the animal food-chain, HMRC has powers to deal with animal products that are imported outside the veterinary checks regime under the Products Of Animal Origin (POAO) Regulations. This function is carried out at the border by HMRC's delivery partner the UK Border Agency.

The UK Border Agency's strategy is to deter and detect illegal imports of POAO from entering Great Britain (responsibility for Northern Ireland is with DARDNI). Frontline multifunctional officers are trained to tackle a range of high risk goods at the border, including POAO. There are also a number of detector dogs based around GB who are trained to detect POAO. Traffic is targeted from high risk countries based on risk assessment and intelligence.

DEFRA and HMRC have undertaken a number of publicity and awareness raising initiatives to inform travellers and the UK public of the regulations.

Ozone Layer: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the environmental impact of non-implementation of EC Regulation 2037/2000 in so far as it relates to building foam. [207223]

Mr. Woolas: The use of ozone-depleting substances in building insulation foams has been banned in the EU since the beginning of 2004. Most of these foams are currently still in buildings but it will be important to prepare for the time when large scale volumes of these insulation foams need to be disposed of where practicable.

DEFRA has initiated discussions with building industry stakeholders about current infrastructure available for dealing with demolition waste and the technical and economic issues that arise.

Sewers

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to complete the consultation on the transfer of private sewers to sewerage undertakers; and if he will make a statement. [207159]

Mr. Woolas: The Government announced in February 2007 their decision to transfer private sewers and lateral drains draining to the public sewerage system into water company ownership. We subsequently published a public consultation in July 2007 on implementation options for the proposed transfer. The consultation also posed questions on the scope of assets to be included in the transfer and ways in which the creation of new private sewers can be prevented.

A summary of responses was published in March 2008 and we are currently considering in detail the issues raised with the help of a steering group of key stakeholders. The work of the steering group will inform the decision on the timing of transfer and we expect to complete this by the summer.

Waste Management: Licensing

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which golf courses have been granted paragraph 19A exemptions from waste management licensing. [205611]

Joan Ruddock: It has not been possible to indicate which paragraph 19 exemptions are for golf course developments. Identifying the exemptions relating to golf courses could only be achieved if a significant administrative exercise were to be undertaken by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency currently has over 2,700 registered paragraph 19 exemptions, in addition to over 37,000 such exemptions for agricultural waste, across England and Wales.

This exemption is provided for the use of waste in 'relevant work', such as in the construction of recreational facilities or highway improvements. At the point of registration there is no requirement to specify what type of facility the waste will be used in.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of children reached a good level of development by scoring six points on all the assessment scales for personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy scales of the Foundation Stage Profile; and what progress has been made towards meeting this part of his Department's Public Service Agreement target; [200811]

(2) with reference to his Department's Public Service Agreement for 2005-2008 (Technical Note), page 9, what the agreed Public Service Agreement target is for the proportion of children to reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage by 2008; [200812]

(3) what proportion of children have achieved a good level of development by scoring six points on all the assessment scales for personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy scales of the Foundation Stage Profile in *(a)* the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged super output areas and *(b)* the rest of England in each year since 2003; [200846]

(4) what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's Public Service Agreement target 2. [200848]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Work and Pensions have joint responsibility for this public service agreement target, (which is PSA target 2 for DWP and PSA1 for DCSF). The target, set in 2005, is to improve children's levels of development in the communication language and literacy and personal, social and emotional development scales of the foundation stage profile so that by 2008 53 per cent. of children reach a good level of development and inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged super output areas and the rest of England are reduced by four percentage points from 16 per cent. to 12 per cent. A good level of development is defined as scoring at least six points on all seven of the personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy assessment scales at the end of the foundation stage.

The foundation stage profile was introduced in the academic year 2002-03 and was expected to take a number of years to bed in. Overall national summary data for FSP was first published in 2003 as 'Experimental Statistics' and in 2004 as 'National Statistics'. However, a background of ongoing improvements to teacher assessment and moderation mean it is difficult to draw meaningful statistical judgments about the progress made, particularly in super output areas, between 2003 and 2004. For this reason information on levels of good development has only been published since 2005. The figures are shown in the table.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Percentage of all children achieving a good level of development in maintained schools	48	44	45
Percentage of children living in the 70% least deprived super output areas achieving a good level of development in maintained schools	54	50	51
Percentage of children living in the 30% most deprived super output areas achieving a good level of development in maintained schools	37	33	35

Figures for 2005 and 2006 are based on sample data and are subject to sampling error. Figures for the gap between the most disadvantaged areas and the rest include only those children for whom postcode information was available. Improvements to moderation mentioned above have affected the reliability of 2005, 2006 and 2007 data; we expect 2008 results (due to be published in autumn 2008) to form a secure baseline and the PSA targets on early years foundation stage results for 2011 are to improve from this baseline.

The final figures on the foundation stage profile in England were published in Statistical First Release 32/2007 "Foundation Stage Profile 2006/2007: National Results (Final)" on 11 October 2007, a copy of which is available on my Department's website

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000752/index.shtml

Children: Disabled

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children with a disability were categorised as materially deprived in each year since 1997; and what proportion of children in each age group this represented in each such year. [204650]

Mr. Timms: Being in material deprivation and low income is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 70 per cent. of contemporary median income and a material deprivation score of greater than 25. Full details of the way scores are constructed are available in the public service agreement document 'Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020' which can be found at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/B/9/pbr_csr07_psa9.pdf

The available data are shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of children with a disability and material deprivation, UK in households in low income

	Million
	Number of children
2004-05	0.2
2005-06	0.1

Source:
Households Below Average Income , 2004-05 to 2005-06

Table 2: Children with a disability in households in low income and material deprivation as a proportion of all children by age band, UK

				Percentage
	Age			
	0 to 4	5 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 18
2004-05	1	1	2	1
2005-06	1	1	2	1

Notes:

1. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
2. A child is defined as anyone aged under 16 or an unmarried 16 to 18-year-old in full-time non-advanced education.
3. Information on households in low income and material deprivation is only available from 2004-05.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. Low income and material deprivation is one of the three indicators for measuring child poverty. The other two measures are absolute low income, which includes households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the median income held constant in real terms from a 1998-99 baseline, and relative low income, which includes households with incomes below 60 per cent. contemporary median income.
6. Children with a disability are children with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities. Everyone in this group would meet the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), but these estimates do not reflect the total number of children covered by the DDA as the Family Resources Survey, the source of the HBAI series, does not fully collect this information.
7. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
8. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children, while proportions of children have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
9. Small year-on-year movements should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, 2004-05 to 2005-06

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when parents who are making child support agency payments calculated under the framework in force prior to March 2003 will have their payments recalculated under the formula which now applies. [207085]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown), on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 226W.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203856]

Mrs. McGuire: We will publish, in due course, an annual list relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions during the course of the previous financial year.

Disabled

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with a *(a)* disability and *(b)* learning disability are employed by his Department. [206509]

Mr. Timms: The latest figures based on the position at 31 March 2008 are that 5,982 staff across the Department have declared that they are disabled. The figures are based on the numbers of staff who have voluntarily declared themselves as being disabled. However, we are aware that not all disabled staff declare their disability for departmental records, and the true figure may be higher than the figures shown. For example, the 2008 DWP Staff Survey (which is completed anonymously), showed that 9,977 of respondents considered themselves to have a long standing health condition or disability.

The Department does not collect data on the number of people with a learning disability it employs, and to provide information on this could only be at a disproportionate cost. Staff are encouraged to declare whether they consider themselves disabled, but are not asked to state the nature of the disability.

Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library copies of the Health and Safety Executive's retention and recruitment plans covering policy capacity when it moves to a single headquarters. [207273]

Mrs. McGuire: Through recruitment of new staff to the single headquarters in Bootle, retention of key London staff through the transition period, flexibility to adapt the pace of change to any emerging pressures and continual senior management oversight, HSE will continue to maintain business continuity and deliver the major benefits that the single HQ will bring. The HSE chief executive regularly reports on progress to the HSE board and this information is available on the HSE website.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff at the Health and Safety Executive office at Rose Court, London have expressed a firm interest in relocating to a single headquarters in Bootle. [207274]

Mrs. McGuire: 10 members of staff initially expressed an interest in relocating to Bootle. A firmer number will be available in the summer after the final preference exercise has been conducted.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an equality impact assessment was carried out prior to the Health and Safety Executive's proposal to move to a single headquarters. [207275]

Mrs. McGuire: An equality impact assessment was carried out as part of the business case developed for the proposal to move to a single headquarters.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the changes in the number of posts which will result from the Health and Safety Executive's establishment of a single headquarters. [207276]

Mrs. McGuire: We do not envisage the move to a single headquarters in Bootle resulting in any reduction in the overall total of HSE posts. We shall however be filling posts in Bootle on the basis of establishing initially a sufficient number of qualified staff to undertake core and essential work rather than seeking immediately to fill every potentially vacant post. This will allow us to staff up more effectively the requirements of the new health and safety strategy as progressively become clear.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will provide hon. Members with the telephone number for the out-of-hours service operated by Jobcentre Plus on behalf of his Department. [206539]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 22 May 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will provide hon. Members with the telephone number for the Out Of Hours Service operated by Jobcentre Plus on behalf of his Department. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Out Of Hours Service telephone numbers are already made available to "referring agencies" such as social services and the police. If any hon. Members themselves offer out of hours access in their surgeries over the weekend and wish to become known as a referring agency then we are happy to make local arrangements for access to the out of hours service telephone number.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a person with *(a)* a mental health condition and *(b)* a drug or alcohol addiction claiming jobseekers allowance has access to (i) the Pathways to Work scheme and (ii) condition management programmes through the Pathways to Work scheme. [203272]

Mr. Timms: Pathways to Work is specifically designed to encourage recipients of incapacity benefits to consider opportunities for starting or returning to work. Jobseeker's allowance customers are, therefore, not eligible for Pathways to Work.

Instead, jobseeker's allowance and other benefit customers with drug-related problems have access to the voluntary Progress2Work programme. Progress2Work provides, through specialist contractors, additional help for customers disadvantaged by their drug misuse. These specialists aim to support customers through provision, training and employment.

Under the flexible new deal, beginning in October 2009, service providers can decide to offer condition management programmes as part of the tailored back-to-work action plans drawn up for longer-term jobseeker's allowance customers. Customers with a history of drug and alcohol misuse can currently also volunteer for early access to the New Deal Gateway and this arrangement will continue under the flexible new deal.

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* current projected (i) running and (ii) set up costs of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority are in its first year of operation; [205492]

(2) how much has been spent on establishing and running the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority; [205493]

(3) whether he expects the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority to meet its objectives without exceeding its budget; [205494]

(4) what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* current projected cost and *(c)* cost to date of setting up personal accounts is. [205498]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the report from the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority, a report on the Personal Accounts delivery authority's plan for delivery . I am placing a copy of the report in the House Library

Social Security Benefits: Sanctions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the Jobcentre Plus review of the sanctions regime for benefit claimants announced on 20 February. [207161]

Mr. Timms: We will publish the conclusions from the review as part of the Government's proposal for the next stage of welfare reform.

JUSTICE

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206795]

Bridget Prentice: Six members of staff employed within the Ministry of Justice undertook apprenticeships during the financial year 2007-08.

The Ministry of Justice is participating in the Apprenticeships Pathfinder being organised by Government Skills, with an intake likely in September. Numbers are likely to be substantially larger than in previous years. We are also participating in the Civil Service West Midlands Apprenticeships pilot.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals were employed as staff by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [206544]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the nationality of public sector staff within the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is not held centrally. This could be collected only at disproportionate cost. Information on nationality is included on an individual's application form, which he/she completes at the start of the recruitment process. This is to ensure that the applicant meets nationality requirements under the civil service recruitment code for employment within MOJ.

Legal Services Commission: Complaints

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when complaints procedures were first introduced by the Legal Services Commission; and what the terms of those procedures were; [206632]

(2) what changes have been made to the complaints procedures of the Legal Services Commission since they were first introduced; and what the reasons were for such changes; [206633]

(3) what the complaints procedures of the Legal Services Commission are; [206634]

(4) what training and guidance has been provided to the Regional and acting Regional Directors of the Legal Services Commission on the terms of the Legal Services Commission complaints procedures; when it was provided to them; and how it was provided; [206635]

(5) what training and guidance has been provided to the account managers of the Legal Services Commission on the terms of the Legal Services Commission complaints procedures; when it was provided; and how it was provided. [206636]

Bridget Prentice: The LSC's approach to dealing with complaints is part of its overall focus on customer services. It strives to maintain the highest standards of customer service and effective complaint handling. Success at this is measured through a customer services score target. The LSC expects to have achieved its customer services score target of 90 per cent. for 2007-08.

When the Legal Services Commission was established in 1999, it inherited its complaints procedure from the Legal Aid Board (the body previously responsible for administering legal aid).

The LSC improved its complaints handling procedures following a review in February 2004. The complaints review team developed a new definition of a complaint and added a second tier review system to ensure consistency across the LSC. The new procedure was introduced in April 2004.

Details of the LSC's complaints procedure can be found on the Commission's website at:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/docs/cls_main/How_to_Complain_to_the_Legal_Services_Commission_May_07.pdf

In terms of training, when the LSC's new complaints procedure was launched in April 2004, all staff were notified of the changes and given access to the relevant guidance and policy documents on the intranet.

Once the new procedure was in place, specific training was provided on a local basis to complaint handlers who are nominated to co-ordinate responses, offer guidance to colleagues and maintain quality and consistency.

Account managers may be involved in drafting responses to complaints from providers. Regional directors deal with complaints only in exceptional circumstances.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 25 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Miss A. S. Galtrey. [206965]

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Children and Youth Justice (Beverley Hughes), and I replied jointly to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 19 May 2008. We apologise for the delay.

Offenders: Electronic Tagging

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what sentencing guidelines are given to courts on the use of electronic tagging orders combined with curfews and the circumstances in which such a sentence would be appropriate; [206938]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued on using a combination of curfews and electronic tagging in sentencing; and under what circumstances his Department considers such sentencing appropriate. [206949]

Mr. Hanson: Curfew may be imposed under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 as a requirement of a community order or of a suspended sentence order for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. The Act requires that such a requirement must be electronically monitored unless this is not possible or it is judged inappropriate in a particular case.

The independent Sentencing Guidelines Council issued guidance to the courts on 2003 Act sentences in December 2004. The guidelines give examples of where curfew might be appropriate as part of a community order for offences in the low, medium and high seriousness ranges. They also say that electronic monitoring should be used with the primary purpose of promoting and monitoring compliance with other requirements, in circumstances where the punishment of the offender and/or the need to safeguard the public and prevent re-offending are the most important concerns.

The court may obtain and consider a pre-sentence report prepared by the National Probation Service (NPS) before sentencing. Comprehensive departmental guidance to the NPS on 2003 Act sentences was issued in 2005, explaining how curfew and electronic monitoring might be used. Other departmental guidance on specific aspects of sentencing, which may include references to curfew and electronic monitoring, is issued as necessary.

Open Prisons: Prisoners Release

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in open jails in England and Wales had been deemed not suitable for release on temporary licence at the most recent date for which figures are available. [206872]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell), on 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2834W.

Release on temporary licence is the mechanism that enables prisoners to participate in necessary activities, outside of the prison establishment, that directly contribute to their resettlement into the community and their development of a purposeful law abiding life.

The eligibility requirements are set out in Prison Service Order 6300 Release on Temporary Licence, which is available on the Prison Service website. Eligible prisoners must pass a rigorous risk assessment before temporary release is granted.

Information on those considered unsuitable for release under temporary licence is not centrally available, would require manual inspection of individual prisoners' records and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he will publish a summary of responses to the consultation on the law on damages; [206701]

(2) when he plans to publish his Department's response to the consultation on the law on damages. [206702]

Bridget Prentice: We aim to publish a summary of responses to the consultation paper on the law of damages together with the Government's response to the consultation before the summer recess.

Prison Service: Safety

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to protect prison staff from assault by prisoners. [205534]

Mr. Hanson: Public and private sector prisons are each required to have a local violence reduction strategy, which involves regular analysis of problem areas, consideration of solutions and an action plan to reduce violence. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and improving personal safety for all. A good practice toolkit supports the violence reduction strategy and guides establishments to develop practical solutions, including environmental and physical measures as well as alternative ways of managing behaviour.

Public and private sector prison staff receive the appropriate training to ensure they have required skills and knowledge to deal with potentially violent situations in prisons and protect themselves from assault.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has supported the Prison Officer Association's Zero Tolerance Campaign to ensure prisons are a safer place to live and work.

Prisoners

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in adult prisons had previously been *(a)* children in care, *(b)* children in foster care and *(c)* adopted children in each of the last five years. [207072]

Mr. Hanson: In response to part *(a)* of the question, I refer the hon. Member to my answer given on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 391W, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

Information on the total number of prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales who were in local authority care at some point when under the age of 16 is not centrally available.

However, a Social Exclusion Unit report "Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners" published in 2002 reported that 27 per cent. of the prison population had been taken into care as a child against an average across the general population of 2 per cent.

In response to parts *(b)* and *(c)*, there is no available information on which to provide an answer.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment since 1997 have been subsequently released and committed further crimes and been re-imprisoned. [203302]

Maria Eagle: To provide the information requested would require data matching between different sources of information, and manual checking of individual records which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost. Data migration for the Department's new database is currently under way and will be subject to data quality assurance. I hope to write to the hon. Member by the middle of June to provide as much of the information requested as can be obtained reliably from the new database at that time.

Prisoners: Females

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what monitoring is conducted of the care needs of women from Wales who serve custodial sentences in prisons in England after their return to Wales on release. [201604]

Maria Eagle: All prisoners who serve 12 months or more are subject to a period of statutory supervision on release. Those sentenced to any period in custody who are under 21 years at the point of release will also be supervised by the probation service on a standard three-month licence.

In relation to women prisoners returning to Wales, this applies wherever they were imprisoned. Prisoners on licence are seen by the probation service who assess and manage their risk and needs in order to reduce reoffending and this assessment includes any gender issues. Additionally, NOMS Cymru is running the Women's Turnaround Project, a demonstration project for women based in Cardiff. The project is self-referral with services delivered through the third and private sectors and has close links with HMP Eastwood Park and offers an opportunity for women to be supported with their resettlement needs.

Prisoners: Learning Disability

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* special programmes and *(b)* specific education provision his Department provides for prisoners with learning disabilities. [206377]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The terms 'learning disability' and 'learning difficulty' are most usually used to refer to mental health and education issues respectively. As the question refers specifically to 'education provision', my response sets out what we do to meet the needs of prisoners with learning difficulties.

There are no special programmes or education provision in place for prisoners with learning difficulties specifically. Instead, as part of the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service, education providers are obliged to assess for and meet the additional learning support needs of offenders with learning difficulties who are engaged in learning and skills programmes available to the prison population more generally.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1381W, on prisoners: rehabilitation, what plans his Department has to assess the effects on the rehabilitation of prisoners of the interaction between inmates and prison guards on prison councils. [206962]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice currently has no plans to carry out a formal assessment of the impact of prison councils on the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Road Traffic Offences: Electronic Tagging

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the electronic tagging orders imposed during sentencing for road traffic offences have been issued in respect of *(a)* driving while disqualified, *(b)* drink driving and *(c)* other offences since 1999. [206939]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows how many of the electronically monitored curfew orders imposed during sentencing for road traffic offences have been issued in respect of *(a)* driving while disqualified, *(b)* drink driving and *(c)* other summary motoring offences since 1999, up to 2006.

Under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, an electronically monitored curfew became one of a number of requirements of the new community order for adults that courts could impose for offences committed after 4 April 2005. Since its introduction courts have only recorded the number of community orders imposed rather than the requirements used. The table from 2005 therefore reflects the number of curfew orders for juveniles and a declining number of orders given to adults for offences committed before 4 April 2005.

Electronic tagging orders imposed during sentencing for road traffic offences, 1999 to 2006

	Driving while disqualified	*Drink driving*	*Other summary driving offences*	*Other driving offences*
1999	61	30	35	402
2000	141	62	30	716
2001	199	92	58	1,092
2002	437	168	107	2,060
2003	759	305	245	3,177
2004	1,040	541	395	5,055
2005	666	371	556	5,183
2006	171	101	104	2,892

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted for road traffic offences have received a sentence including both a curfew and an electronic tagging order since 1999. [206940]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows how many of those convicted for road traffic offences received a sentence including a curfew that was to be electronically monitored since 1999, up to 2006. Under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, an electronically monitored curfew became one of a number of requirements of the new community order for adults that courts could impose for offences committed after 4 April 2005. Since its introduction courts have only recorded the number of community orders imposed rather than the requirements used. The table from 2005 therefore reflects the number of curfew orders for juveniles and a declining number of orders given to adults for offences committed before 4 April 2005.

Electronic tagging orders[1] imposed during sentencing for road traffic offences, 1999-2006

	Driving while disqualified		*Drink driving*		*Other summary driving offences*		*Other driving offences*	
	Curfew order with electronic tagging	*Other form of electronic tagging*	*Curfew order with electronic tagging*	*Other form of electronic tagging*	*Curfew order with electronic tagging*	*Other form of electronic tagging*	*Curfew order with electronic tagging*	*Other form of electronic tagging*
1999	61	—	30	—	35	—	402	—
2000	141	—	62	—	30	716	—	
2001	199	—	92	—	58	—	1,091	1
2002	437	—	168	—	107	—	2,059	1
2003	759	—	305	—	245	—	3,175	2
2004	1,040	—	541	—	395	—	5,054	1

Electronic tagging orders[1] imposed during sentencing for road traffic offences, 1999-2006

	Driving while disqualified		*Drink driving*		*Other summary driving offences*		*Other driving offences*	
	Curfew order with electronic tagging	*Other form of electronic tagging*	*Curfew order with electronic tagging*	*Other form of electronic tagging*	*Curfew order with electronic tagging*	*Other form of electronic tagging*	*Curfew order with electronic tagging*	*Other form of electronic tagging*
2005	664	2	371	—	272	—	5,176	7
2006	168	3	101	—	104	—	2,878	14

[1] Exclusion orders with electronic tagging were introduced in the Powers of Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act 2000.

Source:

NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which recommendations of the Carlile inquiry into the physical restraint of children in custody have been implemented. [207075]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 153W.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) published its response to Lord Carlile's inquiry in July 2006. Since that time, the YJB has been working hard to implement those of the recommendations that it accepted.

The YJB has implemented a code of practice across the secure estate for children and young people and is actively monitoring establishments' compliance. It has also improved monitoring and data collection arrangements and undertaken a safeguarding review. The YJB is developing a work force development programme for the young people's secure estate and is working with the Children's Workforce Development Council to agree core competencies for people working with children.

The YJB is also in the process of developing more sophisticated conflict resolution techniques. Pilots in restorative justice and therapeutic crisis intervention techniques are both under way. The YJB has also considerably increased the number of outdoor exercise facilities for young people.

The YJB's safeguarding review team has completed its work and is expected to report to Ministers shortly.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Corporate Responsibility

14. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice and assistance his Department provides to companies on their corporate and social responsibilities in relation to the local community in which they are situated. [206994]

Mr. McFadden: BERR encourages UK companies to build effective corporate responsibility practices into their operations. In addition to the legal framework, BERR helps UK companies operating internationally to take into account their economic, social and environmental responsibilities in these countries. BERR offers advice and assistance for all UK companies operating in the UK or overseas via the Corporate Responsibility website.

Work-life Balance

15. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to assist workers with dependants to manage their work-life balance. [206995]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have doubled the rate of maternity pay, extended maternity leave, and introduced paid adoption and paternity leave. In addition, carers and parents of children under six have the right to request flexible working, and we have just announced as a result of the Walsh Review that this will be extended to parents of children up to 16.

Post Office Network

16. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on progress on the post office network consultation. [206997]

Mr. McFadden: To date, 28 out of the network change programme's 47 area plans have gone out to public consultation and final decisions have been announced for 20 of them.

Business Support

18. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to simplify business support. [206999]

Mr. Thomas: In March this year, the Government published their document "Simple Support, Better Business", outlining the steps they will take to simplify publicly funded business support by 2010. The main route to secure support from Government in all its forms will now be through Business Link, where services are being expanded and developed.

Energy Supplies

19. **Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with energy supply companies on assistance to vulnerable consumers. [207000]

Malcolm Wicks: I held a number of discussions with the six largest energy supply companies during March and April, securing individual agreements with them to treble their collective spend on assistance to vulnerable customers from around £50 million to around £150 million a year by 2010-11.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the future security of UK energy supplies. [206990]

Malcolm Wicks: As set out in the Energy Markets Outlook report published in October 2007 we currently have enough gas and electricity supply infrastructure to enable demand to be met until about the middle of the next decade. However, additional investment will be needed to meet demand after that. Provided that the commercial and regulatory environment remains favourable we expect the market to make the necessary investment.

Royal Mail

20. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the future of the Post Office and Royal Mail. [207001]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are providing total funding of up to £1.7 billion up to 2011 to modernise and reshape the post office network and to put it on a stable footing.

Royal Mail needs to transform into a modern, efficient postal services provider so that it can compete in a liberalised market. The Government have made available £1.2 billion to enable the management to implement its business plan to achieve this.

The Government announced an independent review of the postal services sector on 17 December 2007. Following the publication of its initial findings, which paint a stark picture of the huge changes in the postal market, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has asked the review panel to bring forward ideas urgently, including changes to the system of regulation, to meet our ambition for a Royal Mail that provides a timely and efficient postal service for domestic and business consumers.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on Postcomm's proposal for the part-privatisation of Royal Mail. [206998]

Mr. McFadden: Postcomm's proposal that Royal Mail should have greater access to private capital was part of a submission to the independent Review of the postal services sector.

It would not be appropriate to have a running commentary on points made in submissions to what is an independent review.

The review panel is expected to report to the Secretary of State later this year.

Agency Workers

21. **Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the oral statement by the Prime Minister of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1385-89, on the draft legislative programme, when he plans to complete consultation on legislative proposals on the treatment of agency workers. [207002]

Mr. McFadden: Following my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's statement, the Government have been in close contact with the CBI and TUC and welcome the agreement that they reached on 20 May on how fairer treatment for agency workers should be promoted. The Government will now engage with their European partners to seek agreement on the terms of the agency workers directive that will enable this agreement to be brought into legal effect in the UK.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on manufacturing industry of building a new generation of civil nuclear power stations. [206978]

Mr. Hutton: The building of new nuclear power stations in the UK could create up to tens of thousands of new jobs. It will be a major opportunity for our manufacturing and construction sectors, with a significant proportion of the work likely to be done in the UK.

Energy: Metering

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consultations his Department has held on policies relating to smart meters over the last five years. [206981]

Mr. Hutton: My Department held consultations on metering and billing in November 2006 and August 2007. We have also undertaken extensive impact assessment work on smart metering, which we've published for informal consultation. We will decide finally on smart metering for domestic consumers and small businesses following the second report from the smart meter trials—due in November.

EU Law

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the implementation of the recommendations of the Davidson review on implementation of EU legislation. [204152]

Mr. McFadden: All the Davidson review recommendations have either been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

Insurance mediation directive

In July 2007, legislation came into force to remove the insurance activities of freight forwarders and storage firms from the scope of Financial Services Authority insurance regulation, where the insurance activity relates to a commercial customer. HM Treasury will reconsider the case for extending the exemption to cover retail customers once codes of practice of sufficient standard are in place.

The Financial Services Authority has made progress in addressing those recommendations on the insurance mediation directive for which it is responsible by publishing new, simplified insurance conduct of business rules in December 2007 that replaced a number of detailed prescriptive rules with greater reliance on principles; completing a review of the retail mediated activity return (RMAR) which will result in a 30 per cent. net reduction in the number of data elements required from end 2008; and publishing a consultation paper in March 2008 to seek views on proposals to reform the Client Assets Sourcebook with the intention to simplify the structure following the implementation of the markets in financial instruments directive.

MOT testing

The Department for Transport intends to issue a consultation document in the near future.

Animal scientific procedures

The Home Office has committed to reduce the administrative burdens arising from the regulation of animal experiments by at least 25 per cent. by 2010. So far, a standard wordings list has been posted on its website for use by personal licence applicants and licensees; fast-track personal licence processes have been put in place; and a revised web-based Certificate of Designation form has been posted.

Close links

The Financial Services Authority published a consultation paper on the close links requirements in December 2005

(http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/cp/cp07_21.pdf)

to examine whether there are opportunities for reducing the burdens on firms. HM Treasury is currently reviewing the application of the threshold conditions to firms not covered by the directive.

Consumer sales directive

BERR has asked the Law Commission and Scottish Law Commission to review the current legislation, with a view to recommending simplification and rationalisation where possible to make the law easier for all users to understand and use.

Fisheries

The draft Marine Bill was published on 3 April 2008. Consultation on it and the impact assessment closes on 26 June 2008.

Waste and other regulatory regimes

DEFRA and CLG have consulted on improving the interface between the planning and environmental permitting systems. Consultants are now developing a protocol involving the main regulators to deliver a more effective interface when carrying out their respective roles.

Formal consultation on a revised suite of exemptions from environmental permitting is proposed for July 2008, to come into force in October 2009.

The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007, which came into force on 6 April 2008, replace over 40 statutory instruments with a single set. This is expected to result in a reduction of administrative burden of £72.3 million over 10 years.

An informal consultation on a review of inert waste legislation covering the issues raised by the Davidson review closed on 21 March 2008. A summary of the responses and proposals for further action will be available by summer 2008.

Waste framework directive

The Commission guidance on by-products was published in February 2007. Due to the pace of negotiations on the proposed revisions to the EU waste framework directive, DEFRA has not yet published for consultation its draft updated guidance on waste, including the definition of waste, but intends to do so shortly.

Food hygiene training for food handlers

The Food Standards Agency has implemented this recommendation in full.

Road haulage operator licensing

The Department is currently taking part in negotiations on a proposed new EU regulation on access to the occupation of road transport operator—which would replace the existing EC directive that sets European rules on operator licensing. The financial standing requirements form part of those discussions.

For further details on all this, please see departmental simplification plans which can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/policy/simplifying-existing-regulation/simplification-plans/2007/page44068.html

Best practice recommendations

The Davidson review recommendations on how the Government could improve their approach to handling European legislation in general have mostly been incorporated into a revised version of The Transposition Guide—guidance for officials on negotiating and implementing EU law effectively—which was published in September 2007:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44371.pdf

The Statute Law Database went live in December 2006. It contains secondary legislation made since 1 January 1991. There are no plans to consolidate the secondary legislation until the consolidation of primary legislation is complete.

Impact Assessments

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what requirements his Department places on *(a)* Ministerial departments and *(b)* the Office of Fair Trading to produce impact assessments as part of the consultation process on regulatory guidance; and if he will make a statement. [204192]

Mr. McFadden: Government's guidance on Impact Assessments and Consultation are both available online at the location provided. The Government are of the strong opinion that the Impact Assessment process strengthens policy-making, and as such is an integral part of the development of new policy.

The Office of Fair Trading, as an independent entity, may exercise its professional judgment on appropriate adaptations to central Government's Impact Assessment process, in accordance with the particular needs of its regulatory activity. However, OFT recognises the importance of maintaining the spirit of the Impact Assessment process in relation to its regulatory activity and apply it where possible.

Impact Assessments:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/policy/scrutinising-new-regulations/preparing-impact-assessments/page44077.html

Consultation:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/cyconsultation%20guidance/page44420.html

Internet: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households in Halifax with a broadband connection to the internet at the latest date for which figures are available. [206983]

Malcolm Wicks: Figures for Halifax specifically are not available but the Ofcom "Nations and Regions" report published in May 2007 provided figures for the Yorkshire and Humber region. The report showed 100 per cent. of premises in the region connected to DSL enabled exchanges as well as 42 per cent. of premises able to access broadband through cable technology. Take-up of broadband within the region was at 42 per cent. of all adults in 2006, up from 34 per cent. in 2005 and 57 per cent. of SMEs had broadband connections in 2006. In addition 87 per cent. of the region was covered by at least two mobile operators offering a 3G service, over which mobile broadband could be delivered.

Overseas Trade: USA

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has made to the United States administration on the enforcement of legal restrictions on the operation of UK businesses in the US. [206566]

Mr. Thomas: We intervene with the US authorities where and when appropriate, when we consider the commercial interests of UK business to be adversely affected by discriminatory US legislation. Most recently we intervened with the Office of the US Trade Representative in relation to the withdrawal of commitments relating to gambling under GATS Article XXI.

Post Offices

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd. about its trials of outreach branches. [204295]

Mr. McFadden: I regularly discuss a range of post office network issues with Post Office Ltd. including the outreach element of the network change programme. I have also had recent discussions with the company about their decision to extend trials of outreach service provision into urban communities.

Post Offices: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on trials of post office outreach branches in Essex. [204724]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd has confirmed that, under its network change programme covering East Essex and Suffolk, a number of post offices will be closed and replaced with an outreach service. The company will publish its network change proposals for the South Essex, South Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire area plan, covering Castle Point constituency, in June and it is likely that this will also include proposals for outreach services. Post Office Ltd recently announced that it had decided to extend trials of outreach service provision into urban communities.

Postal Services: Underground Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the merits of reopening the postal transport system under Central London for Royal Mail purposes. [203950]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* The Department has not made any assessment of the merits of reopening Mail Rail. Consideration of the use of Mail Rail is an operational matter for Royal Mail.

Regional Development Agencies: Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what each regional development agency's *(a)* budgets and *(b)* objectives are for support for social enterprise in the next three years. [203687]

Mr. McFadden: The RDAs' proposals for support for social enterprise covering the next three years will be set out in their corporate plans which are currently being finalised and will be published later this year.

Students: Finance

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will request the Low Pay Commission to take into account the financial position of students in its report on potential changes to the minimum wage to support younger workers; and if he will make a statement. [203691]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The Government set the Low Pay Commission remit earlier this year. They requested the Low Pay Commission to make recommendations on the national minimum wage, taking into account a wide range of factors, including the position for young workers.

Working Hours: Pregnancy

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the maximum number of hours is that an employer can require a pregnant employee to work; and if he will make a statement. [202520]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The maximum number of hours a pregnant woman can be required to work is 48 hours per week, unless she (the pregnant employee) has signed a waiver.

However, this may be reduced if the hours of work pose a risk to the expectant mother or her unborn child.

Employers have a duty to protect the health and safety at work of all employees, including new and expectant mothers and mothers who are breastfeeding. As part of this duty employers are required to carry out a specific risk assessment paying particular attention to risks that could affect the health and safety of the new or expectant mother or her child.

Employers are obliged to do what is reasonably practicable to control risks such as making changes to the working conditions; hours of work or offer alternative suitable work. If none of these steps adequately reduces the risk the employee must be suspended from work on full pay to protect her and her unborn child.

TRANSPORT

A21: Sevenoaks

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Highways Agency plans to resurface the Sevenoaks section of the A21 with low-noise surfacing. [207221]

Mr. Tom Harris: The agency used quieter surfacing during maintenance works in 2002 on the A21 section from Dibden Lane Overbridge to the A225/B245 interchange at Sevenoaks Weald and on the crawler lane, constructed in 2006, which runs just north of the lay-by near Morleys Lane Interchange to just north of the Gracious Lane Overbridge on the northbound carriageway.

The latest technical surveys for the A21 Sevenoaks Bypass show it is in good condition. Current policy following the 2004 spending review is that roads are only resurfaced when required for maintenance or safety reasons. The Highways Agency therefore has no plans to carry out further resurfacing works on the Sevenoaks section of the A21 with low noise surfacing within its current programme.

When the bypass does require resurfacing in the future, for safety and maintenance reasons, quieter surfacing will be used.

Air Routes: Heathrow Airport

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has held with the Civil Aviation Authority on routes for departures from Heathrow Airport. [206953]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Planning and regulation of all UK airspace is the responsibility of the independent aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority. The process for making changes to airspace is governed by the CAA's Airspace Change Process. Under this process it is for an airspace change sponsor to develop and consult upon proposals. It is then for the CAA to assess proposals against regulatory requirements and either approve or reject them.

In accordance with this process, on 21 February NATS launched a consultation on its proposals for changes to Terminal Control North airspace. These proposals include changes to departure routes from Heathrow Airport heading to the north and north east

As part of the regulatory process the CAA might consider seeking the Secretary of State's views on environmental aspects of the proposals and may seek her approval for the change. It would therefore be premature and inappropriate for the Secretary of State, or any other member of this Department, to discuss the specifics of the proposal with the CAA, or any other party, whilst it is subject to the rigours of the independent Airspace Change process.

Airports: Public Safety Zones

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the public safety zones for each airfield in Hampshire were last reviewed. [207198]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Of the two airports in Hampshire where Public Safety Zones (PSZs) have been established, Southampton was reviewed in 1999 and Farnborough in 2004. DFT Circular 1/2002 states that risk contours around airports will be remodelled at intervals of about seven years. A phased review programme covering all established PSZs is due to commence later this year.

Biofuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration she has given to the merits of amending biofuel targets to base them on potential greenhouse gas savings. [206140]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 21 June 2007 the Government stated that they aim from April 2010 to modify the renewable transport fuel obligation so that biofuels are differentiated according to their greenhouse gas savings. An informal policy paper examining some of the issues relating to this aim was published in October 2007 and is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/secrtfostake/informalpolicypaper.

Subsequent to the June 2007 announcement, the European Commission published in January 2008 a draft renewable energy directive proposing that only biofuels that deliver a 35 per cent. minimum greenhouse gas saving would be eligible for certificates under such schemes as the UK's RTFO. A draft amendment to the fuel quality directive also proposes that transport fuel suppliers be required to reduce the carbon intensity of their fuels, which could effectively incentivise those biofuels which deliver a high level of greenhouse gas savings. Negotiations are ongoing on the detail of both of these draft directives, and the Government will continue to discuss with the Commission and other member states how the stated aims to modify the RTFO in 2010 will fit with whatever requirements ultimately emerge from them.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect on global food prices of the EU's goal to achieve 10 per cent. biofuels by 2020. [206658]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government take very seriously concerns over rising global food prices. A large number of factors, including biofuel demand, maybe contributing to the situation. That is why the Secretary of State for Transport has asked Professor Ed Gallagher, chair of the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA), to lead a review into the indirect effects of biofuels production. The review will closely examine the effects of UK and EU biofuel support policies on global commodity and food prices as well as environmental impacts, and the review will report at the end of June.

Further details are available on the RFA's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/reportsandpublications/reviewoftheindirecteffectsofbiofuels.cfm

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has also asked the World Bank to look into food markets and the impacts of subsidies in time for the next G7 meeting of world leaders in June.

Bus Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department met representatives from (i) Stagecoach, (ii) First Group, (iii) Go-Ahead and (iv) Arriva on departmental premises to discuss bus-related matters. [203338]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* Ministers and officials have met representatives from these companies on many occasions on departmental premises since 1 January 2007 to discuss bus-related matters. In addition, the Bus Partnership Forum, which includes Ministers and representatives of these companies, has met on 19 March 2007, 10 July 2007, 15 November 2007 and 16 May 2008. On 19 March 2008, the Secretary of State and the Minister of State held a meeting which included representatives of these companies.

Bus Services: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many full-time equivalent officials are working on matters related to the determination of operator appeals connected with the national concessionary bus fare scheme; and what the average length of time has been between submission of appeal and determination; [206556]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the consistency of appeal decisions in respect of operator appeals under the national concessionary bus fare scheme; [206558]

(3) what percentage of appeals have been decided *(a)* fully and *(b)* partly in favour of bus operators in respect of the 2007 national concessionary bus fare scheme; and how much has been awarded to bus operators to date; [206559]

(4) how many appeals have been registered by operators against the 2008 national concessionary bus fare scheme; and if she will place a list of those operators in the Library. [206560]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* There are the equivalent of around four full-time officials working on matters relating to the determination of bus operator appeals, including legal and economic specialists. There were also two independent decision makers appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport for the 2007-08 appeals although neither works full time. The average length of time between appeal submission and issue of a determination was 10 months. The issues are complex and it is imperative that each appeal is considered fairly, and this takes time.

The Secretary of State has not made any assessment of the consistency of the appeal decisions. Determinations of appeals are made by independent decision makers appointed on her behalf. They consider each case on the basis of the evidence submitted by each applicant and the relevant travel concession authority (TCA), with professional economic and legal advice from officials in the Department.

Appeals determinations in the year 2007-08 were either upheld, in which case the decision makers directed the TCA to modify their schemes to award additional reimbursement to the operator, or they were dismissed. To date, for 2007-08 appeals, 33 were upheld and 34 were dismissed. The decision makers are appointed to determine whether or not the arrangements in a TCA's concessionary travel scheme are appropriate with respect to reimbursement for the services provided by the applicant operator. Based on estimates of outturn data, around £6.5 million additional reimbursement was directed to be paid, in total, to operators whose appeals were successful in 2007-08.

There were 102 appeals by bus operators regarding reimbursement arrangements in 2007-08, of which, 25 were withdrawn and three were not valid. Of the remaining 74, to date, 67 have been determined. The following is a list of operators who lodged appeals. Some operators had lodged appeals in more than one TCA. Two appeals have so far been lodged against 2008-09 schemes.

Anglian Bus and Coach Ltd.
Arriva Midlands
Arriva North East Ltd.
Bakers Coaches
Bournemouth Transport Ltd.
Bowers Coaches Ltd.
Brighton and Hove Transport
Brylaine Travel Ltd.
Burtons Coaches Ltd.
Castleways (Winchcombe) Ltd.
Centrebus Ltd.
Choice Travel
Compass Travel (Sussex) Ltd.
D and G Coach and Bus Ltd.
East Kent Road Car Ltd. (Stagecoach in East Kent)
East Midland Motor Services Ltd.
Eastbourne Buses Ltd.
Excel Passenger Logistics Ltd.
F. Hunt (Coach Hire) Ltd.
First Devon and Cornwall Ltd., jointly with First Hampshire and Dorset Ltd. and First Somerset and Avon Ltd.
First Hampshire and Dorset Ltd.
First PMT Ltd.
First South Yorkshire Ltd.
Go West Midlands Ltd.
Hants and Dorset Bus (Damory Coaches)
Hodson Coaches Ltd.
Konect Bus Ltd.

Leicester City Bus (First Leicester)
Lincolnshire Road Car (Stagecoach in Lincolnshire)
Marchwood Motorways
MAS Special Engineering Ltd.
MetroBus Ltd.
Midland Red South Ltd. (Stagecoach in Warwickshire)
Norfolk Green (Go West)
North Shropshire Community Transport Ltd.
Northampton Transport Ltd. (First Northampton)
Nu-Venture Coaches Ltd.
Oxford Bus Co.
P. C. Coaches of Lincoln Ltd.
Plymouth City Transport
Powells Bus Ltd.
Pulham and Sons (Coaches) Ltd.
Red and White Services Ltd. (Stagecoach in South Wales)
Regal Busways
Sleafordian Taxi Co. Ltd.
Solent Blue Line
Stagecoach Devon
Stagecoach East Midlands
Stagecoach in Cambridgeshire (Cambus)
Stagecoach in Lincolnshire
Stagecoach in Oxfordshire
Stagecoach in Yorkshire
Stagecoach North West
Stagecoach South
Stagecoach West
Stagecoach Yorkshire
Stephensons of Essex Ltd.
T. M. Travel Ltd.
Thames Travel (Wallingford) Ltd.
Thamesdown Ltd.
Tourist Coaches
Trent Barton Buses
United Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd. (Stagecoach East)
W. H. Nelson Coaches (Wickford) Ltd.
West Midlands Travel Ltd.
Wilfreda Luxury Coaches Ltd.
Wilts and Dorset Bus

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultants have been contracted by her Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure her Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206206]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Driving Tests

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the criteria are for determining driving test centre *(a)* location, *(b)* relocation and *(c)* closure; what (i) primary and (ii) secondary legislation governs such considerations; what changes have been made to each enactment; what recent representations she has received on the location of driving test centres; and if she will make a statement. [207131]

Jim Fitzpatrick: When considering the location, relocation or closure of a driving test centre, the Driving Standards Agency follows the "Code of Practice on Written Consultations—Driving Test Centres". This is a ministerially agreed document which is available from the DSA website. The current service levels for travelling distance to a practical car driving test centre are:

Population density	*Distance criteria*
>=1250/km2	No more than 7 miles
101-1249/km2	No more than 20 miles
0-100 km2	No more than 30 miles

The target for practical motorcycle test candidates is that most should be able to reach a multi-purpose driving test centre within 30 to 45 minutes travelling no more than 20 miles.

There is no legislation that governs the location, relocation or closure of driving test centres. These are administrative matters for DSA. The Agency takes account of the views of Ministers when formulating policy on driving test centre location and closures. Since May 2007 DSA has received the following representations on the location of driving test centres:

Two adjournment debates regarding the closures of Trowbridge and Minehead driving test centres.

10 parliamentary questions on driving test centre location since November 2007.

317 letters regarding the future or closure of a driving test centre.

Driving Under the Influence

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what comparative assessment her Department has made of the effects on driving ability of consumption of *(a)* cannabis and *(b)* alcohol; and if she will make a statement; [206624]

(2) whether her Department has a means by which to measure the extent to which driving ability may be compromised by the consumption of cannabis; and if she will make a statement. [206625]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has investigated the combined effects of cannabis and low amounts of alcohol. The report 'The influence of cannabis and alcohol on driving' was published in 2002 by TRL Ltd (formerly the Transport Research Laboratory) and is available free on-line as report TRL 547 at:

www.trl.co.uk/store/report_list.asp?pid=211&pno=9&searchtext=&advancedsearch=&allwords=&submitted=1

The Department has not commissioned research specifically comparing the effects of cannabis with differing levels of alcohol.

The Department has also investigated the effect of cannabis on driving. The report 'The influence of cannabis on driving' was published in 2000 as TRL477 which is similarly available on-line at

www.trl.co.uk/store/report_list.asp?pid=211&pno=11&searchtext=&advancedsearch=&allwords=&submitted=1

In addition the Department's Road Safety Research Report No 12 'Cannabis and driving: a literature review and commentary' was published in 2000 and is available on-line at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme3/cannabisanddrivingareviewoft476

Highways Agency: Noise

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been allocated to the Highways Agency for noise reduction measures in each of the three financial years from 2008-09; and what proportion of the Highways Agency's budget this represents in each year. [207222]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency's budget includes an annual £5 million ring-fenced allocation for noise mitigation measures in the most serious and pressing cases, where practical and cost-effective measures can be provided. These measures are applied to the entire strategic road network. This annual allocation for noise mitigation is scheduled to continue until the end of the current spending review period i.e. 2010-11.

Noise mitigation measures are also included in the agency's improvement schemes, where warranted, as it is more cost-effective to do this work concurrently with other scheme works. The cost of these works is subsumed within the overall cost of the individual schemes making it difficult to extract the exact figure allocated to noise mitigation without a disproportionate commitment of resources.

Additionally low noise surfacing materials are used as a matter of course when major maintenance is required on the strategic road network. As the noise reduction results are a secondary benefit it would be inappropriate to assign costs from resurfacing to noise reduction alone.

Luton Airport

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has held with the Civil Aviation Authority on publication of the Western Airspace Extension review for Luton Airport. [206969]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following the introduction of revised airspace arrangements at London Luton Airport in May 2006, the CAA conducted a post-implementation (operational) review in accordance with the requirements of the Airspace Charter and Airspace Change Process (Stage 7). The post-implementation review was published on 31 January 2008. There is no requirement within the Airspace Charter or Airspace Change Process for the CAA to engage with the Secretary of State for Transport in respect of operational reviews and no such discussions took place.

Road Signs and Markings: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency spent on replacing missing and vandalised traffic signs in each year since 1997. [207311]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency does not hold the requested data.

Roads: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any Highways Agency road building contracts are the subject of investigation by the Office of Fair Trading. [205105]

Mr. Tom Harris: No.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to produce a working definition of a region for the purposes of allocation of responsibility for maritime and coastal pollution following the first Aquamarina group meeting in Brussels in March 2008. [206767]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are not taking any action to develop a definition of "region" following the meeting of the Aquamarina group.

Aquamarina is a working group of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe—CPMR (an organisation of local and regional government representatives), set up to monitor progress on the new Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, commonly known as the "Blue Book", which has been brought forward by the European Commission.

National governments, including the UK, are not routinely represented on the Aquamarina group. However, the UK Government have been actively engaged in discussions at EU level on proposals brought forward by the European Commission in connection with the Blue Book.

Shipping

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what obligations ship owners are under to inform the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of cargoes lost overboard in *(a)* British and *(b)* international waters. [207296]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Reporting requirements for the loss of polluting goods, containers or packages overboard are addressed under the Merchant Shipping Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements) regulations 2004/2110.

All vessels operating in UK controlled waters must inform the Coastguard of any such losses from the vessel itself or of sightings of containers and packages drifting at sea.

For UK vessels operating in international waters a report must be made to the authority of the coastal state of any losses of polluting goods, containers or packages which pose a threat to the coastline or a related interest of that state.

Stansted Airport: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate how many additional tonnes of carbon dioxide would be generated by a second runway at Stansted over its lifetime, calculated according to the methodology used to estimate additional carbon dioxide produced for a third runway at Heathrow as shown in Annex B, paragraph 2.23 of the Heathrow consultation document. [206724]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our current forecasts of UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions were reported in

"UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts" (November 2007), available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

According to these forecasts, the opening of a second runway at Stansted airport in 2015 would cause carbon dioxide emissions from UK aviation from the time of opening to 2075 to rise by $135MtCO_2$, equivalent to $2.3MtCO_2$ per year on average.

The UK is continuing to press for the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which under current proposals would effectively cap aviation emissions at an average level over the period 2004 to 2006. This means that any additional aviation emissions above that level would lead to no increase in total emissions when the trading scheme is established, since airlines would have to pay for the equivalent emissions reductions in other sectors.

Transport: Supermarkets

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of the siting of supermarkets on local transport systems; and what steps she is taking to mitigate any negative effects. [207066]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for local planning authorities to select appropriate sites for allocation for new development (including supermarkets) in their development plans and to determine whether the transport impacts of new developments are acceptable.

In selecting sites for new development in their development plans, Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (PPS6) requires that local authorities should have regard to (i) whether the sites are or will be accessible and well served by a choice of means of transport, especially public transport, walking and cycling, as well as by car; and (ii) the impact on car use, traffic and congestion.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport, states that where new development is likely to have significant transport implications, a Transport Assessment (TA) should be prepared and submitted with the planning application for the development. A TA should illustrate accessibility to the site by all modes and the likely modal split of journeys. It should also give details of the proposed measures to improve access by walking, cycling and public transport; to reduce the need for parking, and to mitigate transport impacts.

When considering planning applications, TAs will be used by local planning authorities, to determine whether the transport impacts of new developments are acceptable.

Guidance on transport assessments was published by the DFT in March 2007.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she next plans to meet senior managers of UK supermarkets to discuss the effect of *(a)* supermarket supply chains and *(b)* freight movements on UK roads. [207067]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Neither I, nor the Secretary of State, have any meetings planned with the senior managers of UK supermarkets at this time. However, officials are in regular contact with major supermarkets and their logistics partners and discuss issues relating to supply chains and the movement of freight around the UK.

Waterloo Station

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capital investment her Department plans to make at Waterloo station in the next 10 years; what further options for investment at Waterloo are under consideration; and if she will make a statement. [207334]

Mr. Tom Harris: We are planning a large scheme to make the platforms at Waterloo long enough to accommodate 10 and 12 car trains and in addition, to modify the junction layout on the approaches to the station. This would allow the use of up to 50 per cent. longer trains and increase capacity.

The scheme also presents opportunities at Waterloo International to reconfigure the passenger circulation space and the interchange with other transport modes, and to better integrate the station into the surrounding area. The Department for Transport has included an allowance of between £150 million and £200 million in the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) for these and the associated works on the South Western network. The works could be in place from 2012-14.

In the meantime, the Department is working closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) to finalise the design and costs of the partial conversion of Waterloo International to accommodate some domestic services. Therefore some services could use platform 20 of Waterloo International from December 2008. This scheme is likely to cost in the region of £5 million.

For the longer term, the Department and Network Rail are looking at the much larger, comprehensive redevelopment of the Waterloo complex to meet the demands and capacity requirements at the station over the coming decades. Such a major re-design of the station could be linked to a large scale commercial development at the site.

TREASURY

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206791]

Angela Eagle: There have been no apprenticeships or advanced apprenticeships in HM Treasury in the past year.

Of its agencies, the Valuation Office Agency had 22 staff undertake apprenticeships in the most recent scheme run by VOA which ended in 2006. There have been no advanced apprenticeships. Since the 2006 Programme, the VOA have switched from apprenticeships to stand alone NVQ's at levels 2 and 3. The Royal Mint had four apprenticeships for 2007-08. No other agencies of HM Treasury had any apprenticeships.

HMRC does not currently have any apprenticeships but is taking part in the apprenticeship pathfinder being organised by Government Skills (the sector skills council for central Government), and aims to start at least 50 apprenticeships later this year.

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from capital gains tax business owners who sell their businesses upon retirement up to the value of *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £200,000, *(c)* £300,000, *(d)* £400,000, *(e)* £500,000 and *(f)* £1,000,000 in 2008-09. [206395]

Jane Kennedy: Due to the specific nature of how this relief would interact with the capital gain tax entrepreneurs' relief it is not possible to provide these estimates.

Child Benefit: EU Nationals

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many nationals of each A8 country were receiving child benefit for a child or children living in another EEA member state at the end of March; and at what average cost to the public purse in each month. [205878]

Jane Kennedy: Around 7.5 million families are currently claiming child benefit for around 13 million children.

At the end of March 2008, there were 24,060 ongoing child benefit awards to A8 nationals recorded as receiving child benefit for 39,425 children living in another EEA member state. This equates to around a third of a percent of all child benefit awards.

The breakdown by nationality is as follows but these disaggregated numbers are only estimates and should be used with caution.

Country	*Number of awards at 31 March 2008*	*Number of children included in awards*
Czech Republic	130	217
Estonia	11	16
Hungary	48	81
Latvia	225	292
Lithuania	603	888
Poland	21,915	35,949
Slovakia	1,125	1,978
Slovenia	3	4
Total	24,060	39,425

The other information requested is not available in the format requested or is available only at a disproportionate cost.

Delivery Services

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition his Department and each of its agencies use of a secure courier. [206685]

Angela Eagle: There is no single definition of secure courier. Cabinet Office guidelines specify different requirements for couriers, depending on the level of protection that is required. Each Department or agency applies the rules, and selects the courier service that best meets their needs, ensuring that transport of the more sensitive items is only entrusted to those couriers who offer the highest levels of assurance. The timely, safe and secure carriage and delivery of our goods is fundamental to all our courier contracts.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of food and drink procured for working lunches attended by officials at which no external invitees were present in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [205521]

Angela Eagle: Working lunches are not separately identifiable within the Treasury's accounting system and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All expenditure, including that on hospitality, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 721-22W, on departmental databases, which US-registered service provider has been engaged to manage certain aspects of personal data; and what types of personal information it has been engaged to manage. [197147]

Angela Eagle: National Savings and Investments have engaged US registered service providers as follows:

> CACI—a wholly owned UK subsidiary of CACI Inc. A division of CACI has been engaged to help NS and I with analysis. This has included sending them customer name and address data along with account data.
>
> Acxiom—a UK subsidiary of a US company. NS and I have in the past provided all account opening information, including but not limited to name, address and purchase amount to Acxiom for analysis. This work was taken over by a UK based provider in 2005.
>
> S1—a US company based in Atlanta. Data processing covered by a Safe Harbour Agreement. S1 host the internet engine for the NS and I Direct ISA product. They hold customer information including but not limited to name, address, telephone number, NI number and purchase amount.
>
> NS and I has a number of different contractors and due to the diverse nature of their requirements there are different levels of protection covered by their terms and conditions. As a minimum, their terms and conditions include compliance with the Data Protection Act, however higher risk contracts have more robust clauses.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of producing his Department's staff magazine in the latest year for which figures are available. [205875]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury no longer produces a regular magazine for staff. One-off issues may be used from time to time for internal communication. The cost of producing any one-off staff magazines is met using our in house team except for printing, which costs on average £1,000.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the revenue from auctioning allowances for large electricity producers under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme *(a)* in the period up to 2012-13 and *(b)* following the auctioning of 100 per cent. allowances from 2012-13. [207037]

Angela Eagle: The Government plan to auction 7 per cent. of allowances in phase II of EU ETS, amounting to approximately 85 million allowances, plus those allowances from installations that close during phase II and any unused surplus from the new entrant reserve (NER). Under the terms of the EU EST Directive 2003/87/EC, the total number of allowances auctioned cannot exceed 10 per cent. of the number allocated during phase II. The auctioning levels for the EU ETS post 2012 have not yet been determined. However, the Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that the UK intends to auction 100 per cent. of allowances to the large electricity producers.

The amount of revenue will be influenced by the market price at the time of the auctions. It would be improper for Government to speculate on how the market will function in the future. Therefore we cannot give an estimate of the amount of revenue the auctions will raise in the period up to 2012-13 or upon auctioning of 100 per cent. of allowances to large electricity producers from 2013 onwards.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* private businesses and *(b)* public sector employers of implementing his decision to increase income tax personal allowances in 2008; and if he will publish a full impact assessment. [206653]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and employers' representatives have long established processes in place to ensure any changes to tax can be implemented by businesses as soon and simply as possible. HMRC is talking to employers' representatives about the smooth and timely implementation of the changes announced by the Chancellor. Each year, HMRC sends tools to employers so that they can automatically implement the annual Budget changes. HMRC are following this well-understood process in implementing the changes announced by the Chancellor. HMRC are issuing updated tools to employers, which will include all the details to enable an employer to automatically implement the changes. For smaller employers who continue to operate their payrolls manually, HMRC will provide tax tables to help them deal with the changes.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on economic growth of the reduction in income tax revenues arising from the proposed increase in the personal allowance. [207097]

Jane Kennedy: The Treasury last published forecasts for the UK economy in the 2008 Financial Statement and Budget Report (HC 388). These will be updated as part of the 2008 pre-Budget report, as is normal practice.

Ministerial Statements

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when copies of his Oral Statement of 13 May 2008 *(a)* were planned to be and *(b)* were made available to (i) hon. Members (A) in the Vote Office and (B) behind the Speaker's chair and (ii) the media. [206183]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury made arrangements for copies of the statement to be made available to Members and the media after the Chancellor had delivered it in the Chamber. That is what happened.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the criteria are for determining when to uprate the rate at which private car owners may claim tax relief for journeys undertaken for companies and voluntary organisations; when the rate was last amended; and what plans he has to review the rate. [207325]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 22W.

The Government consider that the mileage rates, introduced in 2002, are sufficiently high to cover the business motoring expenses of most drivers. The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that the Government would maintain the tax-free mileage allowance (AMAPs) rates and thresholds at current levels.

Offshore Funds

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many offshore accounts have been declared under HM Revenue and Customs' amnesty; how much additional revenue has been collected as a result of the amnesty; whether foreign owned UK banks have been included in the disclosures; and whether offshore subsidiaries of UK banks have been included in the disclosures. [206693]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is considering the information provided by over 44,000 taxpayers who took the opportunity to put their tax affairs in order under the recent offshore disclosure facility. The disclosures totalled over £400 million and included details of over 65,000 offshore accounts.

The facility was not an amnesty as taxpayers were required to pay the full tax due (not just the tax linked to an offshore account) plus interest and, except in the very smallest cases, a penalty of a set 10 per cent. of the tax.

Taxpayers were not asked for details of their accounts held at UK banks (whether foreign owned or not) but were required to declare outstanding tax due from all sources.

Accounts with both offshore subsidiaries and offshore branches of UK banks have been included in disclosures received by HMRC.

Public Sector: Pensions

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects public sector pension scheme liability estimates to appear on all Government accounts. [206712]

Yvette Cooper: Public sector pension liabilities will be published in Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) for financial year 2009-10. An exact date for publication of these accounts will be set after the 2008-09 dry run WGA process has been completed.

Revenue and Customs: Southport

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans HM Revenue and Customs has for the usage of Dukes House in Southport in the next 10 years. [207081]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) announced on 29 February its plans to vacate its office in Dukes House, Southport, by spring 2010 or earlier as staff are relocated to other buildings which will be retained. The enquiry centre services currently available at Dukes House will either remain in the current building or be relocated nearby.

HMRC leases Dukes House from its strategic estates partner, Mapeley, under the terms of the STEPS contract. HMRC will give at least 12 months' notice to Mapeley of its intention to vacate the building. Once HMRC's lease has ended, responsibility for the future use of Dukes House will be entirely a matter for Mapeley.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revisions HM Revenue and Customs has made to its plans to relocate its offices in Dukes House, Southport, following the outcomes of appeals against its original proposals on the part of employees. [207294]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) plans are still as announced on 29 February: to relocate staff from most of the business units in its office in Dukes House Southport to join larger teams in other offices within reasonable daily travelling time. Customer Contact staff will remain in or near their current location to maintain the enquiry centre services currently offered at Dukes House.

Individual members of staff may object through a grievance and appeals process against a decision that it is reasonable to require them to relocate. Where agreement is reached that it would be unreasonable for an individual to relocate with their team to the long-term location preferred by their own business unit, all alternative options will be explored, such as transfer to another business unit in an HMRC office within reasonable daily travelling time, or to another Government Department within the locality.

If none of the alternative options is feasible, temporary work of comparable quality will be provided in the Southport office for individuals who cannot move until a permanent solution is found. That will not affect the business decision to vacate the office, though it may affect the timing of the vacation.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of levying aviation duty on business in the UK. [206996]

Angela Eagle: An initial impact assessment was included in the formal consultation document issued on 31 January 2008.

A final impact assessment will be published at the same time as the policy announcement in the autumn. The main areas covered in the impact assessment will include the impact of the tax on business compliance costs (including estimates of these costs), overall competition in the aviation sector, small firms, other sectors carbon and other environmental effects.

Valuation Office: Cameras

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* digital and *(b)* video cameras the Valuation Office Agency has purchased in the last 24 months; and at what cost. [199119]

Jane Kennedy: 791 digital cameras were purchased in the last 24 months (April 2006-March 2008) at a total cost of £112,486.64. No video cameras were purchased.

Welfare Tax Credits

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last visited a tax credit office. [199155]

Jane Kennedy: I was appointed as the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in June 2007 and as the Minister responsible for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) I have visited a number of HMRC offices, including the tax credit office in Preston in September 2007, and tax credit staff working in Liverpool in February 2008.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of tax credits awarded to deceased persons in the last financial year. [205877]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 243W.

The same information for 2006-07 will be available from 20 May 2008.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which user groups he has consulted on the operation of the tax credit system. [206866]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* HMRC consults on a regular basis with a wide range of organisations.

It also has a tax credit specific consultation group, which has met regularly since the scheme began. Members of this group include organisations such as Child Poverty Action Group, One Parent Families, Citizens Advice and Low Incomes Tax Reform Group. The minutes of those meetings are published on HMRC's website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk.

HMRC also seeks the advice of the Social Security Advisory Committee under the terms of the memorandum of understanding signed between the former Inland Revenue and the Committee.

Wines: Measurement

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance HM Revenue and Customs issues on the sizes of wine glasses used by wine-selling on-trade establishments; and if he will make a statement. [206571]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs does not issue guidance on the sizing of glasses used for serving wine in on-trade establishments. Trading standards authorities are responsible for enforcement of the Weights and Measures (Intoxicating Liquors) Order 1988, which specifies that wine, when sold in a glass or other vessel from which it is intended to be drunk, may be sold only in units or multiples of either 125 ml and 175 ml.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Campusalam: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated to *(a)* the Campusalam website and *(b)* the Lokahi Foundation in each year for which figures are available. [206865]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government has not funded the Campusalam website nor the Lokahi Foundation.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when she expects the new board of experts to advise local authorities, councillors and local communities on tackling radicalisation and those promoting hate announced by the Prime Minister to be set up; who she expects to be members of the board; what she expects the cost of the board to be; and if she will make a statement. [168399]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

We are working with the Improvement and Development Agency to develop a network of qualified peer mentors to provide advice to local authorities on work to prevent violent extremism. Peer mentors are made up of locally elected councillors, local council officials and voluntary sector representatives who will be available to work with local authorities to develop their approaches to preventing violent extremism. The approach is currently being piloted, with a view to rolling out the programme further shortly. To date 25 new peers have been accredited. The costs of accreditation and training totalled approximately £35,000 in 2007-08.

Council Tax: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties there were in each council tax band in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne in each year between 2003 and 2007; and how many in each band were *(a)* empty and *(b)* exempt because all residents were students in each year. [206694]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of the number of dwellings in each council tax band in Newcastle upon Tyne in each year between 2003 and 2007 are shown in the following table. Also shown for each year are the total number of properties that were either empty or exempt from council tax because all residents were students. It is not possible to break these figures down by council tax band.

		Number of dwellings				
Valuation band	*Valuation band range (£)*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	£ *2007*
A	Under 40,000	72,423	72,183	71,988	71,849	71,944
B	40,001 to 52,000	17,379	17,389	17,441	17,514	17,675
C	52,001 to 68,000	16,674	16,922	17,110	17,134	17,341
D	68,001 to 88,000	7,464	7,604	7,709	7,774	7,972
E	88,001 to120,000	3,668	3,783	3,840	3,866	3,923
F	120,001 to 160,000	1,688	1,718	1,782	1,799	1,824
G	160,001 to 320,000	1,310	1,360	1,363	1,379	1,433
H	Over 320,000	114	115	113	115	117
Total		120,720	121,074	121,346	121,430	122,229
Empty dwellings		7,275	6,141	5,829	5,595	5,710

		Number of dwellings				
Valuation band	*Valuation band range (£)*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*£ 2007*
Student exemptions		5,035	5,830	5,924	6,035	6,453

The dwellings data are provided by the Valuation Office Agency while the student exemption and empty dwellings data are as reported annually to Communities and Local Government on the CTB and CTB(Supplementary) forms that are completed by all billing authorities in England. All the data relate to particular dates in the autumnof each year.

Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the vacancy rate of properties in each housing renewal area in 2007 was as a percentage of the regional vacancy rate; and if she will make a statement. [206826]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is as follows:

Vacancy rates in Housing Renewal areas and their regions. October 2007

Region/Renewal area	*Housing Renewal vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Region vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Ratio of HRA to regional vacancy rate*
North East			
Newcastle Gateshead	5.0	4.1	1.2
North West			
Manchester Salford	6.7	4.6	1.5
Merseyside	5.7	4.6	1.3
Oldham and Rochdale	4.7	4.6	1.0
East Lancashire	6.4	4.6	1.4
Yorkshire and the Humber			
Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire	5.7	4.5	1.3
South Yorkshire	3.9	4.5	0.9
West Midlands			
North Staffordshire	4.6	3.5	1.3
Birmingham and Sandwell	3.7	3.5	1.1

Source:
Council Tax Base

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the minutes of the Stakeholder Panel on home information packs as referred to in the Government Response to the Communities and Local Government Committee's Report on the Department for Communities and Local Government's Annual Report 2007, Cm 7335, paragraph 14. [193834]

Caroline Flint: A copy of the minutes to the meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling held on 25 July 2007 has been deposited in the Library of the House. All subsequent meetings were held under the Chatham House Rule and no final minutes were produced for these.

Homeless

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of people living *(a)* in hostels, *(b)* in bed and breakfasts, *(c)* in squats and *(d)* with friends or family members on a non-permanent basis. [206379]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 20 May 2008]*: The Department does not hold a total figure centrally.

The Homeless UK project, run by the Resource Information Service (RIS), provides information on hostels and supported accommodation for homeless people in England. There are 1,204 accommodation projects with over 57,000 bed spaces. 246 are direct access hostels with 9,000 bed spaces. Direct access hostels are short-stay emergency services aimed at rough sleepers and those in need of immediate accommodation. Further information on the other types of hostels covered by RIS is not yet available.

RIS does not cover accommodation provided under statutory homelessness provisions. Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data on the number of households living in temporary accommodation secured by local housing authorities in England under the homelessness legislation are available in our quarterly statistical release, which provides details on types of temporary accommodation including hostels and bed and breakfast hotels. The latest release, published on 10 March 2008 on the Department of Communities and Local Government's website and placed in the Library, contains temporary accommodation data up until the end of December 2007. At the end of December 2007, there were :

3,530 households in bed and breakfast hotels; and

6,620 households in hostels (including women's refuges),

secured as temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation.

Data on squats or accommodation provided by friends or family are not held centrally.

Housing: Low Incomes

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families were on social housing waiting lists in each region of England in each year since 1997. [206033]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists broken down by Government office region and local authority for 1997 to 2007 is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Information about social housing waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than families.

Mortgages

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number and *(b)* the percentage of new mortgages taken out in each year between 2003 and 2007 with a loan to value ratio in excess of 100 per cent. [206683]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on mortgages for house purchase are available from the Regulated Mortgage Survey which is supplied to Communities and Local Government by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. As the survey is a sample, data on the total number of new mortgages are unavailable from this source. However by deriving proportions from the survey and applying them to the total number of new mortgages in the UK, as published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, an estimate of the total number can be provided.

The estimated number and proportion of new mortgages in the UK with a loan to value ratio in excess of 100 per cent. for the years 2003 to 2007 are shown in the following table:

	Number	*Proportion (%)*
2003	27,100	2.2
2004	20,000	1.6
2005	17,000	1.7
2006	20,800	1.9
2007	18,500	1.8

Source:
Regulated Mortgage Survey and the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Loan to value has been calculated using the mortgage advance against the purchase price which may not be the same as the value of the property.

Some mortgage advances also include fees on top of the advance required for the purchase of the property. Hence some 100 per cent. loan to value mortgages will have been included in the figures above for mortgages in excess of 100 per cent. of value.

Ordnance Survey

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the definition of Ordnance Survey's new Public Task has been extended to include addressing. [203433]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey's Public Task has not been extended to include addressing as Ordnance Survey has a history of collecting, recording and publishing addressing in part since the 1860s and in full since the 1940s. More recently Ordnance Survey has taken advantage of digital technology to store this information in databases and make it available separately from mapping.

Planning Permission: Gardens

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what grounds local authorities can reject applications for planning permission for developments in back gardens. [207270]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities must determine planning applications in accordance with the statutory Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Government national statements of planning policy, such as the policies on housing set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3), are capable of being material considerations to be taken into account by local planning authorities.

PPS3 has strengthened the ability that local planning authorities have always had to turn down applications for inappropriate housing development in back gardens. In particular, local authorities could put in place local policies that place restrictions on development on residential brownfield land and set separate targets for different kinds of brownfield land, for example, promoting development on industrial sites. Local planning authorities could also develop their own design policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected in their local area, so that local authorities should feel able to reject proposals which are inappropriate in their context, or which fail to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

Local planning authorities should make decisions on planning applications having robust and appropriate policies up front in plans, working with their local communities.

Planning Permission: Schools

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications were *(a)* received and *(b)* granted for the development of new (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [206233]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally. Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on development control from all local planning authorities in England. However, we do not collect information on individual planning applications.

Planning Permission: Urban Areas

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had on the merits of removing the need test from Planning Policy Statement 6; and what assessment she has made of the likely economic effect on town centres of ending the need test. [206383]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our response to the consultation on the Planning White Paper Planning for a Sustainable Future in November 2007 said that we have had a positive and constructive discussions with key stakeholders about our proposal to improve the effectiveness of town centre policy in Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6).

It remains our intention to revise PPS6 and replace the need and impact tests with a new test for assessing the impact of proposals outside town centres. The new test will have a strong town centre-first policy focus, promoting competition and improving consumer choice, avoiding the unintended effects of the current need test.

We will be publishing our proposals to revise PPS6 for consultation in the summer. This will include an assessment of the economic impacts of the proposals on town centres.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to make changes to town centre first planning policy; and if she will make a statement. [206385]

Mr. Iain Wright: We remain committed to the town centre first policy. The Government's proposals for improving the effectiveness of town centre policy are set out in the Planning White Paper—Planning for a Sustainable Future (May 2007). To implement these proposals we intend to consult on revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6) in the summer. PPS6 only applies in England.

Regional Ministers: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2140W, on regional Ministers, what the *(a)* grade and *(b)* pay scale is of the staff working for each regional Minister in their regional capacity. [196233]

Hazel Blears: Departments' and Government Offices' support to their regional Ministers in their regional capacity varies over time. As such the following information should be seen as estimates and, at any point in time, staff beyond those listed here may be engaged in providing support and input to the role of the regional Ministers. These staff are overseen by senior grades in a management capacity.

Pay scales vary between Departments and so are listed in a separate column. Government Offices pay scales are listed as follows.

Region	*Departmental Private Office Grades and FTE*	*Departmental pay scale(s) (£)*	*Government Office Grades and FTE*
North East	1.0 Senior/Higher Executive Officer 1FTE	26,721 to 34,612	0.3 Grade 7 0.2 Information Officer 0.2 Higher Executive Officer 0.2 2 Executive Officers 0.1 Administrative Officer 1 FTE
Yorkshire and Humber	1 Higher Executive Officer 1FTE	29,550 to 34,710	0.5 Higher Executive Officer 1.0 Executive Officer 1.5 FTE in total
North West	1.0 Higher Executive Officer[1] 1FTE	27,970 to 37,210	1.0 Higher Executive Officer 1FTE
East	0.4 Executive Officer 0.4 FTE	22,130 to 27,850	0.5 Senior Executive Officer 1.5 Higher Executive Officer 0.5 Executive Officer 2.5 FTE
East Midlands	1.0 Higher Executive Officer 1 FTE	26,721 to 34,612	0.25 Grade 5 0.5 Grade 7 0.75 Senior Executive Officer 1.0 Higher Executive Officer 0.5 Executive Officer 0.5 Administrator Officer 3.5 FTE
West Midlands	0.2 Grade 7 0.2 Executive Officer 0.4 FTE	43,325 to 55,837 20,034 to 24,050	0.7 Grade 7 1.0 Higher Executive Officer 1.7 FTE

Region	Departmental Private Office Grades and FTE	Departmental pay scale(s) (£)	Government Office Grades and FTE
South East	0.5 Higher Executive Officer 0.5 FTE	28,901 to 33,986	0.5 Grade 6 0.2 Grade 7 0.2 Senior Executive Officer 0.3 Higher Executive Officer 0.8 Executive Officer 2 FTE
London	Support for the Minister in her regional capacity is divided between four staff who spend a proportion of their time on regional business	41,923 to 53,762	0.4 Grade 7
	Given the nature of the Minister's roles as Minister for the Olympics and London, it is not possible to separate out the amount of time spent by members of the Private Office specifically on regional activities	26,721 to 34,612	0.8 Higher Executive Officer
		21,260 to 26,199	0.3 Executive Officer
		16,768 to 21,080	1.5 FTE
South West	1.0 Senior Executive Officer 1FTE	28,723 to 41,991	1 .0 Executive Officer 1FTE

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[1] From 7 April 2008

Government Office network pay ranges with effect from 1 August 2007

Grade	Minimum	£ Maximum
AO London	19,624	22,889
PS London	19,624	22,889
AO National	15,185	17,698
SGB1 National	15,185	17,698
PS National	15,185	17,698
AO OL	17,655	21,236
SGB1 OL	17,655	21,236
PSOL	17,655	21,236
EO London	22,819	28,139
SPS London	22,819	28,139
EO National	18,387	22,665
SPS National	18,387	22,665
EO OL	20,880	25,910
SPS OL	20,880	25,910
Mapping and Charting Officer National	22,494	27,731
Research Officer National	22,494	27,731
Mapping and Charting Officer OL	24,363	30,234
Research Officer OL	24,363	30,234
EO Accountant London	26,697	31,842
EO Accountant National	21,579	26,600
EO Accountant OL	24,850	30,837
HEO London	28,475	32,942
HEO National	24,615	28,449
HEO OL	27,026	31,929
HEO Accountant London	33,554	38,514
HEO Auditor London	33,554	38,514
HEO Accountant National	28,441	32,739
HEO Auditor National	28,441	32,739
HEO Accountant OL	30,952	37,397
HEO Auditor OL	30,952	37,397

Government Office network pay ranges with effect from 1 August 2007

Grade	Minimum	£ Maximum
Higher Scientific Officer London	31,481	36,453
HPTO London	31,481	36,453
Higher Scientific Officer National	29,286	33,885
HPTO National	29,286	33,885
Senior Instructional Officer National	29,286	33,885
Higher Scientific Officer OL	29,978	35,347
HPTO OL	29,978	35,347
Senior Instructional Officer OL	29,978	35,347
Information Officer National	25,935	33,257
SEO London	34,707	40,140
SEO National	30,081	34,771
SEO OL	32,589	38,514
SEO Accountant London	38,570	44,827
SEO Accountant National	33,948	39,491
SEO Auditor National	33,948	39,491
SEO Accountant OL	36,469	43,527
SEO Auditor OL	36,469	43,527
Senior Information Officer London	36,559	41,540
Senior Information Officer National	34,484	39,183
SPTO London	41,017	47,472
Senior Planning Officer London	41,017	47,472
Senior Research Officer London	41,017	47,472
Senior Scientific Officer London	41,017	47,472
SPTO National	37,501	43,385
Senior Planning Officer National	37,501	43,385

Government Office network pay ranges with effect from 1 August 2007

Grade	Minimum	£ Maximum
Senior Research Officer National	37,501	43,385
Senior Scientific Officer National	37,501	43,385
SPTO OL	38,757	45,702
Senior Planning Officer OL	38,757	45,702
Senior Research Officer OL	38,757	45,702
Senior Scientific Officer OL	38,757	45,702
Grade 7 London	45,550	58,775
Grade 7 Accountant London	45,550	58,775
Grade 7 National	41,071	52,811
Grade 7 Accountant National	41,071	52,811
Grade 7 OL	43,884	57,502
Grade 7 Accountant OL	43,884	57,502
Grade 6 London	54,350	70,643
Grade 6 National	50,282	64,884
Grade 6 OL	53,217	69,730
Grade 5	56,100	116,000

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2140-42W, to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on Regional Ministers: manpower, what the pay bands of staff supporting each Minister are. [196458]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) today (PQ 196233).

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1426W, on regional planning and development: South East, what progress she has made on establishing when her response to the South East Plan will be published. [207080]

Mr. Dhanda: It is still the intention of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to publish her proposed changes to Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East before the summer recess.

Rented Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to receive the final report on the review of the private rented sector from the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York; and if she will make a statement. [206825]

Mr. Iain Wright: The final report of the review of the private rented sector is expected in October.

The review has a wide remit to look at how the sector meets current needs and expectations and whether and how the experiences of both landlords and tenants might be improved. In the context of future demand and supply pressures in the private rented sector, the review will look at what needs to be done to ensure private renting offers people the right type of homes of good quality, both now and into the future; and what more should or could be done to raise professionalism amongst private landlords.

The review will also consider security of tenure when exploring whether more needs to be done to improve the experiences of both landlords and tenants in the sector in relation to their rights and responsibilities.

Retail Trade: Planning Permission

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Competition Commission on planning policy for retail developments. [206384]

Mr. Iain Wright: Neither the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government or I have had discussions with the Competition Commission. However, Communities and Local Government officials attended two hearings with the Commission to discuss the Government's planning policy, the operation of the planning system in England and its programme of reforms to inform the preparation of the Commission's final report on its UK groceries market investigation.

Schools: Planning Permission

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications to build *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent schools were made in each of the last five years; how many of those have been approved; and if she will make a statement. [206580]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today, (PQ 206233).

Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the minutes from the meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling which met on 25 July. [173379]

Caroline Flint: A copy of these minutes has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the minutes from the meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling on 25 July 2007. [176755]

Caroline Flint: A copy of these minutes has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling: Public Appointments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 667W, on Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling: public appointments, if she will place in the Library copies of the minutes of each of the meetings of the Panel since its establishment. [176255]

Caroline Flint: A copy of the minutes to the meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling held on 25 July 2007 has been deposited in the Library of the House. All subsequent meetings were held under the Chatham House Rule and no final minutes were produced for these.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authorities are providing funding for the non-emergency 101 telephone number following the end of her Department's funding. [202884]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is continuing to provide funding for the national telephony infrastructure to enable partnerships to continue to use the 101 number.

101 continues to operate in Cardiff, Sheffield and Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. A pilot is also running in two London boroughs, Waltham Forest and Barking and Dagenham.

Sheffield city council, Cardiff council, Hampshire county council, the Greater London authority, and the London boroughs of Waltham Forest and Barking and Dagenham are contributing funding to these services.

101 Calls: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the effect of the use of non emergency 101 numbers in the South Wales Police area; and if she will make a statement. [203231]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The South Wales 101 operation was assessed as part of the overall 101 pilot evaluation completed in 2007.

The evaluation of the five pilot areas found that the 101 service had successfully improved public access to and satisfaction in the community safety services. Through greater partnership working and better information from the public about what problems are happening where, the 101 service had helped local police and councils to target their resources more effectively and efficiently and improve the delivery of those services to the public.

Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure is in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [201675]

Mr. McNulty: The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure is funded from the Single Intelligence Account (SIA) which carries the budget provision for all three security and intelligence agencies (the Security Service, SIS and GCHQ). Detailed breakdowns showing the division of funding between the three agencies are not published for security reasons.

Community Policing: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community police officers there are in Halifax. [204488]

Mr. McNulty: Police strength data are collected at the Basic Command Unit (BCU) and the force level only. Halifax falls within the boundary of the Calderdale BCU.

There were 44 full-time equivalent police community support officers in the Calderdale BCU of West Yorkshire police as at 31 March 2007.

Counter-Terrorism Bill

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the advice she has received on the compatibility of the provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Bill with *(a)* race relations legislation and *(b)* the Human Rights Act 1998; and if she will make a statement. [204133]

Mr. McNulty: We are confident that our proposals in the Counter-Terrorism Bill are compatible with the ECHR and will not operate in any way that is unlawfully discriminatory. The powers within terrorism legislation are not aimed at those of a particular race, religion, or at any other group. They are aimed at terrorists, whatever background or section of society they may come from. The new provisions on pre-charge detention will apply to anyone arrested while the powers are available—regardless of their nationality, race or religion etc. The Secretary of State has published a Race and Equality Impact Assessment to go alongside the Bill and has set out in the explanatory notes to the Bill the basis on which she considers the Bill's provisions to be compatible with the ECHR.

Crime: Young People

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent, and on what projects, in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford Local Authority area to deter youths from committing crimes in each of the last five years. [206062]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* Information on the specific projects and spending for projects to deter youth offending in West Chelmsford constituency and Chelmsford local authority area are not held centrally in the Home Office.

The Essex Youth Offending Service (YOS) is the main vehicle for providing these prevention services to Chelmsford. The Essex YOS uses early intervention programmes to prevent young people from entering the youth justice system. These interventions are specifically funded by the Youth Justice Board until March 2011 to work with children and young people aged between eight and 13 years who have been identified by at least two agencies as presenting an increased risk of offending.

Essex YOS have estimated the total spend on these activities from 2005 forecast through to 2009.

	Total spend (£)
2005-06	14,340
2006-07	39,032
2007-08	39,419
2008-09	39,419

The total costs provide a project worker and manager, a senior practitioner, a parenting coordinator and parenting assistant.

In addition to this prevention work by Essex YOS there are also various other agencies who within their remit contribute towards prevention work for young people in the Chelmsford area, such as: Chelmsford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), Chelmsford council, Essex police, Essex county council and some voluntary sector agencies. The Home Office and Essex YOS do not hold the information on their spending.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in her Department since 1997. [204773]

Mr. McNulty: 1,366 statutory instruments have been made by the Home Office in the period from the beginning of January 1998 until the end of April 2008.

No central record is kept of the number of statutory instruments which have been revoked; the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fingerprints

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recognised methods of taking fingerprints there are; and what assessment she has made of the use of each of those methods for the purposes of matching marks from scenes of crime. [202449]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* There are two methods employed to take arrestee fingerprints in the United Kingdom. The traditional method is a 'wet set'. This is an ink and paper method whereby a brass plated block is inked and the subject's fingers placed in that ink and then rolled and pressed into the designated areas of a paper form known as a 'tenprint' form. Palm prints can also be recorded in a similar fashion by police personnel at a police station. The resultant tenprint set (finger and palm) is forwarded to the local fingerprint bureau for scanning and processing the IDENT1 system.

The more widely used method (around 80 per cent.) uses digital imaging technology, known as 'Livescan'. This allows an operator to capture all 10 fingers as both rolled and plain impressions, and palm prints, directly from an individual's hands, electronically, without the use of ink.

The operator places the subject's hand or individual fingers directly onto a camera platen that scans the fingerprints, producing digital images. The images are then processed and immediate feedback is presented to the operator. Livescan allows the operator to capture images again to meet the required standard.

The digital images are streamed into the local fingerprint bureau and the images printed using a laser printer as a representation of the traditional paper tenprint form.

There are one or more Livescan units at all major custody centres. Livescan is integrated with IDENT1.

Crime scene marks are developed by a variety of methods as outlined in the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) Fingerprint Development Handbook and the resultant developed marks can also be scanned into IDENT1 or captured via a digital camera and entered into the IDENT1 system.

Fraud: Elections

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue advice to chief constables on the priority they should attach to investigating allegations of electoral fraud and malpractice. [201034]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for chief constables.

The Association of Chief Police Officers and the Electoral Commission have published guidance on preventing and detecting electoral malpractice throughout England and Wales.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200224]

Mr. McNulty: The code of practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers (Code C) issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 places a requirement on the custody officer to determine whether a detainee is in need of medical treatment. The cost of meeting medical treatment or attention at the police station is met from public funds.

The UK Border Agency currently pays out of public funds for the provision of health and social care services to individuals detained under Immigration Act powers in contracted-out immigration removal centres established under section 149 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the website www.ipcc.gov.uk in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200377]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold the information requested. This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Kidnapping: Children

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the availability of International Child Abduction and Contact Unit information leaflets in police stations; and if she will make a statement. [205227]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* The issue of International Child Abduction and Contact Unit information leaflets in police stations is a matter for individual police forces.

Migration: Statistics

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to use data held by local authorities to improve migration statistics. [206840]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking whether data held by local authorities will be used to improve migration statistics. (206840)

Over the last 3 years the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has conducted a series of studies with Local Authorities to investigate the possibility of using local data to improve official population and migration estimates. The final report of these studies was published in February 2008. Its recommendations are being taken forward as part of the wider cross government programme of work to improve population and migration statistics, the principle purpose of which is to take forward the recommendations of the 2006 Interdepartmental Task Force on Migration Statistics.

On 4 February 2008, the Minister for Local Government announced to the House that this cross-Government programme would be put in place, driven by senior officials from central Government and the Local Government Association, and led by the National Statistician. The involvement of the Local Government Association will provide Local Authority representation in this extensive work programme and ensure an appropriate focus on the use of local data.

ONS is keen to engage with local authorities throughout the development of the improvements and is holding a workshop jointly with the LGA on 23 May to seek views on the programme.

In addition, ONS discusses the methods and data sources used to produce population statistics with local authority representatives who are members of the population statistics subgroup that exists under the aegis of the Central and Local government Information sharing Partnership liaison arrangements.

Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of reports of missing persons involved co-operation between different police forces in the last financial year. [202226]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The number of cases of reports of missing persons which involved co-operation between different police forces in the last financial year are not collected centrally and are a matter for individual police forces.

Missing Persons: Databases

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on missing persons, what progress has been made by the Government via the National Policing Improvement Agency's Missing Persons Bureau in identifying best practice in capturing, recording and sharing data relating to missing persons; how much has been allocated to this initiative for 2008-09; and what the timetable is for completion of a national system for storage and retrieval of data on persons reported missing. [205096]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) launched the Missing Persons Bureau (MPB) on the 1 April 2008.

The requesting of national data from police forces will be subject to the requirement laid out in the NPIA's developing strategic assessment work with police forces and stakeholders, which is yet to be finalised and circulated for consultation. The classification of these data will again be dependent on the developing requirement of the strategic assessment.

At present, there is no national requirement for police forces to use electronic management systems or to provide the MPB with their data so that the MPB can incorporate them into their national database of missing persons. The MPB is working to develop a comprehensive set of data on missing persons.

The MPB is using the same electronic case management system as the charity Missing People. Work is in progress by the software manufacturer to enable electronic sharing of data between the MPB and the charity. Work is also in progress to enable electronic data transfer from police forces to the MPB.

Current guidance advises the transfer of information to the MPB within 14 days of a person going missing. Proposed changes to the guidance are likely to advise the transfer of information to the MPB within 24 hours for very high risk; 72 hours for high/medium risk; and seven days for low risk missing people, where this transfer can be done by automatic electronic means.

The MPB's existing budget has been established to incorporate this element of work, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2008.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 29th April 2008, *Official Report,* column 344W, on missing persons: databases, what information, relating to reports of missing persons, police officers are required to enter onto the Police National Computer within 48 hours of such reports being made under the national guidance on the management, recording and investigation of missing persons. [205097]

Mr. McNulty: Guidance on the details that are recorded on the police national computer (PNC) for missing persons are outlined in the ACPO guidance on the recording, management and investigations of missing persons, produced in 2005. The rules for recording information on the PNC are set out in the National Policing Improvement Agency's PNC user manual.

The name and basic descriptive information for the individual should be entered under the 'wanted/missing' category to identify that they are missing and should be entered onto the PNC as soon as possible and at least within 48 hours of the person's disappearance. Basic descriptive details for unidentified persons or bodies should be entered under the 'wanted/missing' category as a found report using 'information' as the surname. Basic descriptive information encompasses details such as: date of birth, gender, ethnicity, height, build, hair colour, shoe size and so on, where these are known.

The PNC is an operational police database which holds details of those persons currently listed as recorded missing by the police and details of unidentified persons found by the police. As soon as an individual is located or identified, the PNC record is either suitably updated to show the current status or deleted by the police.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 344W, on missing persons: databases, which of the police force databases for the management and recording of missing persons data referred to in the answer *(a)* can and *(b)* cannot share information electronically in real time with (i) the National Policing Improvement Agency's Missing Persons Bureau and (ii) the Police National Computer. [205098]

Mr. McNulty: None of the police forces' missing persons databases can share information electronically in real time with the Missing Persons Bureau's (MPB) database. In order to determine which of the police forces' missing persons databases can share information electronically in real time with the Police National Computer (PNC), it would be necessary to contact each individual police force.

The PNC is a live system accessible by all police forces 24 hours a day, which enables them to share information relating to missing persons.

The MPB is working together with information technology system providers towards developing a technical solution, so that information on missing persons cases held on police forces' systems can be electronically transferred onto the MPB's database. However, there is no requirement for sharing data in real time as the MPB only currently accepts cases to work on after 14 days, thus negating the need for real time updates.

At present there is no national requirement for police forces to use electronic management systems or for them to share information with national systems.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 344W, on missing persons: databases, what recent assessment *(a)* she has and *(b)* chief police officers have made of the performance of police forces in England and Wales against the requirement in the national guidance on the management, recording and investigation of missing persons that details of such persons reported to the police should be recorded on the Police National Computer within 48 hours; and what mechanisms are in place to (i) encourage and (ii) audit performance against this requirement. [205164]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The mechanisms in place to encourage forces to record data on to the police national computer (PNC) are the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance on the management, recording and investigation of missing persons in combination with the rules for recording missing and found persons as set out in the National Policing Improvement Agency's PNC User Manual.

Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) reviewed all of the police forces' compliance with investigating missing persons, in October 2007. This review focused on the processes and systems that were in place to investigate and supervise missing persons investigations. In this review, out of the 43 police forces, one force was graded as excellent, 21 were graded as good and 21 were graded as fair, meaning that they meet the required standard.

HMIC do not carry out an inspection on missing persons data held within PNC but they do audit forces to ensure that forces have their own audit procedures in place and comply with the rules set out in the PNC manual.

Police forces all have an internal review where they audit the information placed on to PNC, and the missing persons data held on PNC would form part of that.

When HMIC do carry out inspections of forces, they also make sure that they comply with the ACPO Data Protection Audit Manual.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 344W, on missing persons: databases, what *(a)* steps would be required and *(b)* costs would be incurred for the data on missing persons captured by the Police National Computer to be extracted to provide national figures on missing persons. [205165]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The police national computer (PNC) is an operational police database which is not designed to disseminate statistical information of this nature. The PNC does hold details of those persons currently listed as recorded missing by the police, however, as soon as an individual is located, the PNC record is deleted.

The Missing Persons Bureau is looking separately at how best to collate statistics on missing persons.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 344W, on missing persons: databases, which of the police force databases for the management and recording of missing persons data referred to in the answer can share information electronically in real time with each other such database listed in the answer. [205172]

Mr. McNulty: The information technology systems used by Dyfed-Powys police and Gwent police are able to share missing persons information with each other.

The 20 police forces that have the community policing and case tracking (COMPACT) computer system all have the facility to export data to each other, should a missing persons investigation move locations.

At present there is no national requirement for police forces to use electronic management systems or for their systems to share information with one another.

The Police National Computer is a live system accessible by all police forces 24 hours a day, which enables them to share information relating to missing persons. The Police National Database (PND), being delivered by the National Policing Improvement Agency-led IMPACT programme, will provide a capability for all police forces to electronically share information from their main local systems with each other. The programme is in the process of asking forces for details of what sort of information from which police force systems they plan to provide to the PND. Deployment of the PND is scheduled to commence in 2010.

Missing Persons: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people between the ages of 16 and 27 years were reported as missing in 2007 in Wirral West constituency. [205070]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Merseyside police.

Missing Persons: Young People

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 346W, on missing persons: young people, (1) if she will request from each police force the number of people reported to that force as missing in 2007; [205166]

(2) if she will request from each police force the number of people reported to that force as missing in 2007 who were *(a)* classified as a vulnerable adult, *(b)* aged (i) between 18 and 16, (ii) 15 and 12 and (iii) under 12 years of age, *(c)* in care and *(d)* disabled. [205167]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 May 2008]*: The Missing Persons Bureau (MPB) is currently making an assessment of the current status of the issue of missing persons in conjunction with its partners and stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group.

At present, there is no national requirement for forces to provide these data, or use electronic management systems. The requisition of data from all police forces is subject to the requirement set out in the National Policing Improvement Agency's developing strategic assessment work with forces and stakeholders, which is yet to be finalised and circulated for consultation.

The MPB has requested the number of missing persons records from all United Kingdom police forces for 2007 split by age and gender. The majority of police forces in the United Kingdom have some sort of electronic system to manage their missing persons cases, however, many of these systems are designed specifically for case management recording and do not have integral statistical packages.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 344W, on missing persons database, if she will request from each police force the number of children and young people reported missing to the police *(a)* under the age of 16 and *(b)* aged 17 and 18 years, broken down by local authority area. [206305]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 May 2008]*: The Missing Persons Bureau (MPB) is currently making an assessment of the current status of the issue of missing persons in conjunction with its partners and stakeholders, including the Missing People charity and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group.

At present, there is no national requirement for forces to provide these data, or use electronic management systems. The requisition of data from all police forces is subject to the requirement set out in the National Policing Improvement Agency's developing strategic assessment work with forces and stakeholders, which is yet to be finalised and circulated for consultation.

The MPB has requested the number of missing persons records from all United Kingdom police forces for 2007 split by age and gender. Data broken down by local authority area are not available, as police force boundaries are not all coterminous with local authority boundaries. The majority of police forces in the United Kingdom have electronic systems to manage their missing persons cases. However, many of these systems are designed specifically for case management recording and do not have integral statistical packages.

North Wales Police: Manpower

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed by North Wales Police on 1st April in each of the last 10 years. [203534]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 7 May 2008]*: The data requested are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" and are given in the following table.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] for North Wales police as at 31 March 1997 to 2007

As at 31 March	*Police force*
1997	1,369
1998	1,396
1999	1,391
2000	1,403
2001	1,444
2002	1,506
2003[3]	1,539
2004[3]	1,603
2005[3]	1,652
2006[3]	1,617
2007[3]	1,591

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Offensive Weapons: Schools

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the police exercised their right of entry and search for weapons under section 139B of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 relating to schools and persons on school premises in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007, broken down by police force area. [205361]

Mr. McNulty: The stops and searches collection held by the Ministry of Justice covers the main stop and search powers within Code A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and counts the number of searches undertaken. The number of times the police exercise their right of entry and the number of searches under section 139B of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 are not identified by the collection.

Pakistan

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcomes of her recent visit to Pakistan were; and if she will make a statement. [203939]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary visited Pakistan from 7 to 8 April. She had bilateral talks with Prime Minister Yusuf Gillani, Interior Adviser Rehman Malik, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Information Minister, Sherry Rahman. She also delivered a keynote speech at the Pakistan National Council of Arts on counter-terrorism, met UK Borders Agency staff serving overseas and was briefed on the British high commission's programme to tackle forced marriage.

On counter-terrorism issues we agreed to an early meeting of our Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime and a joint workshop on extremism to be held in Pakistan. On migration issues, Pakistan agreed to continue to honour our bilateral MOU on returns to remove those persons already in the United Kingdom, once the European Community Readmission Agreement is signed. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also invited Interior Adviser Malik to visit the UK later this year.

Passengers: Surveys

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to increase the size of the sample in the International Passenger Survey. [206839]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question on plans to increase the size of the sample in the International Passenger Survey. (206839)

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is a multi-purpose survey which collects information from a quarter of a million passengers each year, as they enter or leave the UK. It is used for balance of payments, tourism and migration statistics. ONS has focused on whether the size of the migrant sub-sample is adequate.

Less than 1% of all travellers are long-term international migrants and the migrant sub-sample is much smaller than the total number of IPS interviews. In order to boost the size of the migrant sub-sample, additional sampling is conducted at selected ports. The 2006 inter-departmental Task Force into migration statistics included recommendations to improve the coverage of migrants in a port survey, particularly of emigrants. The number of emigrants sampled was increased with immediate effect, from 2007. ONS also immediately undertook a Port Survey Review (PSR) to investigate options for taking forward these particular recommendations.

An interim report of the PSR was published in October 2007 and is available on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/PSREVIEW.pdf

A primary aim in the short-term is to deliver better migration data from a redesigned port survey while continuing to meet other statistical requirements. With this aim in mind, steps have been taken to increase the sample size from April 2008 by implementing new migration sampling at Manchester, Stansted and Luton and by introducing new IPS samples, or adding to existing samples at several other regional airports.

In the longer-term ONS is looking at more radical options for redesigning the port survey. It is expected that the number of migrant interviews on which estimates are based will be increased in a redesigned port survey.

A progress report on the PSR, to be published in the summer, will provide further details.

Police National Computer: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to detect careless and abusive disclosures from the Police National Computer. [204220]

Mr. McNulty: The detection and prevention of unlawful disclosure from the Police National Computer (PNC) is a matter for individual police forces and other criminal justice agencies with access to PNC data. All organisations with access to PNC data are bound by the Data Protection Act 1998; controls specified in the Risk Management Accreditation Document Set for the PNC; and their own internal security procedures.

Police National Missing Persons Bureau

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Police National Missing Persons Bureau. [199334]

Mr. McNulty: The Missing Persons Bureau took over responsibility from the Metropolitan Police Service's Police National Missing Persons Bureau on 1 April 2008. It is not yet possible to assess its operational effectiveness in its new capacity.

A review of the former Police National Missing Persons Bureau carried out by Perry Nove was completed in 2005. As a result of the review, a strategic oversight group, chaired by the Association of Chief Police Officers, has been created with responsibility for the direction and co-ordination of the response to the issue of missing persons.

Police: Airports

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of policing each airport was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [198491]

Mr. McNulty: There are currently nine airports "designated" under the Aviation Security Act 1982 for policing purposes—London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Edinburgh, Glasgow International, Prestwick, Aberdeen, Manchester and Birmingham. At these airports the airport operator is required to meet the costs of the agreed uniformed police presence. At non-designated airports, they either have a dedicated uniformed police presence or the police attend when there is an operational need to do so. These costs are funded wholly or partly by the police authority in which that airport is located, or by other means, for example, voluntary contributions by the airport operator. The cost of uniformed police officers at each airport is therefore not held centrally.

The Home Office Dedicated Security Posts (DSP) Grant provides the central contribution to the policing costs for of specific security functions, including the Special Branch presence at ports. The grants paid to police forces towards the costs of funding their Special Branch officers at ports in financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were £70.6 million, £71.4 million and £72.6 million respectively. Figures prior to these dates were not compiled in the same way and it is therefore not possible to provide data in a comparable form.

The allocation of the DSP grant by airport is not disclosed since to do so could prejudice border security by revealing how Special Branch officers are deployed for counter terrorism purposes. Moreover, chief constables are responsible for the deployment of Special Branch officers at airports within their force area, and deployment patterns may change during the year for operational reasons.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average proportion of police officers' time spent on patrol per day in each of the last 10 years. [200388]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 91W.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of time on average *(a)* all police officers and *(b)* patrol officers spent on (i) incident-related paperwork, (ii) non-incident related paperwork, (iii) all paperwork and (iv) on patrol in each year since 2003-04. [200389]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally.

Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Review of Policing, published in February this year, addressed the issue of police-related bureaucracy. The review made a number of recommendations on this subject, including a review of police operational codes of practice, the expansion of mobile data, a more in-depth analysis of risk (and how this in turn may impact on bureaucratic tendencies in the service), and the further streamlining of criminal justice processes. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has endorsed Sir Ronnie's report and expects his recommendations to form the next drive against unnecessary bureaucracy in the police service.

Police: Databases

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crime scene marks are outstanding on police databases. [202012]

Mr. McNulty: As at 25 April 2008, the IDENT1 database contained 1, 696,286 unidentified crime scene marks—these being a combination of palm and finger marks. This represents the accumulation of such marks over the years from the various systems that migrated into NAFIS in 1999, which was then superseded by IDENT1 in 2005.

Police: Dismissal

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female police officers of each age group (i) resigned and (ii) were dismissed by Essex police in each year since 1997; and for what reasons in each case. [201954]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data on age breakdowns and reasons for resignation/dismissal are not collected centrally. The available data have been collected since 2002-03 and are given in the following table.

Police officer leavers (FTE)[1] for Essex police force from 2002-03 to 2006-07[2]

	Resignations		*Dismissals*	
	Female	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
2002-03[3]	3	9	n/a	n/a
2003-04	13	23	1	2
2004-05	16	50	1	1
2005-06	17	62	1	8
2006-07	18	63	0	5

n/a = data not available

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. Data have not previously been previously published in this format therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Comparable data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[3] Excludes quarters 1, 2 and 3, data not available.

Police: Early Retirement

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in Essex constabulary of each sex took early retirement in each year since 1997. [201953]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is a matter for the Essex constabulary.

Police: Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1065-66W, on police: expenditure, if she will update the information in the Answer with the most recent figures. [201601]

Mr. McNulty: The answer I gave to the hon. Gentleman on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1065-66W contains the most current data available.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with HM Treasury on the use of activity-based costing data to determine police grant funding levels; and if she will make a statement. [200341]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary holds discussions with HM Treasury on a range of police issues.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were employed by North Wales police in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007, broken down by function. [203530]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 May 2008]*: The data requested are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" and are given in the following table.

Police Service strength (FTE)[1] for North Wales police as at 31 March 2006 and 2007

	31 March 2006	*31 March 2007*
Police officers	1,634	1,608
Police staff	882	759
Police community support officers	58	145
Designated officers	0	37
Traffic wardens	2	1

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were per 100,000 population in each police force area in each of the last five years, ranked in order of highest to lowest ratio. [204644]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are taken from the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" and are given in the following table.

Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2007

Police force	*31 March 2003*	*31 March 2004*	*31 March 2005*	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2007*
Metropolitan Police[3]	404	420	417	417	426
West Midlands	307	311	318	318	318
Greater Manchester	298	323	318	318	314
Merseyside	302	303	315	315	325
Cleveland	294	314	308	308	315
Northumbria	290	294	291	291	283
Durham	281	288	288	288	285
South Wales	273	275	271	271	273
West Yorkshire	242	254	270	270	270
Gwent	244	248	264	264	268
South Yorkshire	252	261	259	259	256
Cumbria	237	254	256	256	255
Humberside	244	256	251	251	251
Lancashire	239	252	253	253	252
Nottinghamshire	239	245	243	243	235
North Wales	234	243	242	242	238
Leicestershire	232	246	241	241	237

Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100.000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2007

Police force	*31 March 2003*	*31 March 2004*	*31 March 2005*	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2007*
Dyfed-Powys	237	236	237	237	236
Gloucestershire	219	229	228	228	229
Kent	221	228	227	227	229
Avon and Somerset	213	229	226	226	224
Cheshire	217	224	223	223	225
Staffordshire	212	218	219	219	219
Devon and Cornwall	204	208	219	219	216
Dorset	205	209	216	216	217
Derbyshire	210	216	212	212	209
Hampshire	208	211	211	211	215
North Yorkshire	193	203	216	216	217
Bedfordshire	198	210	213	213	207
Sussex	203	206	207	207	205
Hertfordshire	191	204	208	208	210
West Mercia	196	202	202	202	205
Northamptonshire	194	198	207	207	200
Warwickshire	198	197	198	198	199
Essex	186	192	203	203	203
Thames Valley	186	195	202	202	199
Cambridgeshire	196	197	196	196	187
Wiltshire	190	198	196	196	192
Suffolk	188	196	191	191	196
Norfolk	189	190	193	193	191
Lincolnshire	191	189	183	183	183
Surrey	182	183	184	184	183
London, City of[3]	•	•	•	•	•

[1] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3]. Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were recruited by Essex Police in each year since 1997, broken down by age. [201952]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data on age breakdowns are not collected centrally. The available data have been collected since 2002-03 and are given in the following table.

Police officer female and male Recruits[1] to Essex police from 2002-03 to 2006-07[2] (FTE)[3]

	Female recruit	*Male recruit*
2002-03[4]	10	30
2003-04	83	142
2004-05	84	192
2005-06	76	148
2006-07	121	185

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as police standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Comparable data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[3] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between total and the sums of the constituent items.

[4] Excludes quarters 1, 2, and 3 data not available.

Police: Uniforms

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* stab-proof and *(b)* gun-proof vests are available per (i) police officer and (ii) full-time equivalent police officer in each police force area. [204931]

Mr. McNulty: Decisions about the selection, purchase and issue of body armour are matters for individual chief officers of police.

Police: Weapons

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to police forces on the procedures and protocols to be followed by police officers in the use of incapacitant spray; and what codes of practice are in force. [204631]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* The Association of Chief Police Officers issued guidance on the use of incapacitant spray in September 2006 providing police officers and other police staff with an overarching, generic approach to the use of incapacitant spray to underpin the specific training provided to all staff issued with incapacitant spray. The code of practice for police use of firearms and less lethal weapons issued in 2003 applies to incapacitant sprays as any other less lethal weapon.

The Home Office Scientific Development Branch also issues a technical standard for CS and PAVA sprays for operational police use to ensure incapacitant sprays supplied to the police are manufactured to a consistent standard and are designed to meet operational requirements. The standard was last updated in 2005 and will be updated again in 2008.

Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislation to outlaw Hizbullah in the United Kingdom; what recent representations she has received on the issue; and if she will make a statement. [201955]

Mr. McNulty: The Hezbollah External Security Organisation was proscribed as a terrorist organisation in the UK in February 2001.

The consequence of proscription is that specific criminal offences apply in relation to the Hezbollah External Security Organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000. These include membership of the organisation, support for the organisation and wearing clothes or displaying articles arousing reasonable suspicion as to membership of the organisation. Further general criminal offences exist under the Terrorism Act 2000 in relation to fundraising and various uses of money or property for the purposes of terrorism.

Prostitution

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* successfully prosecuted for (i) kerb-crawling and (ii) running a brothel in each police authority area in each of the last 10 years. [203796]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested regarding arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. robbery, burglary, sexual offences etc. From data reported centrally we are not able to identify the specific offences from within the main sexual offences group.

The information regarding successful prosecutions for the offences of 'kerb crawling' and 'brothel keeping' is provided in the table. The figures for brothel keeping encompass the full range of related offences. There are eight such offences, including: 'keeping a brothel'; 'letting premises for use as a brothel'; and 'tenant permitting premises to be used for prostitution'.

The figures provided relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for 'brothel keeping' and 'kerb crawling' offences, by police force area, England and Wales 1997-2006[1, 2]

	Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	Brothel Keeping										
107	Avon and Somerset	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cheshire	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	City of London	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—
	Cleveland	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	Devon and Cornwall	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
	Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	
	Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	Greater Manchester	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	
	Hampshire	1	—	4	1		3	2	3	2	1
	Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	1		—	1	—	—
	Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Lancashire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	Leicestershire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Merseyside	4	1	4	2	—	—	1	—	1	—
	Metropolitan Police	9	2	3	2	—	—	—	2	2	4
	North Yorkshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	
	Northamptonshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Northumbria	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	South Yorkshire	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Staffordshire	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	1
	Thames Valley	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	West Mercia	1	—	—	1	2		—	—	—	—
	West Midlands	2	3	2	1	—	2	—	1	—	—
	West Yorkshire	1	1	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	4

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for 'brothel keeping' and 'kerb crawling' offences, by police force area, England and Wales 1997-2006[1, 2]

	Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Dyfed—Powys	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Gwent	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	North Wales	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	South Wales	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
	England and Wales	26	13	33	14	7	8	4	15	11	18
	Kerb Crawling										
165	Avon and Somerset	20	2	1	—	1	9	2	2	1	7
	Bedfordshire	1	1	1	1	6	2	5	—	1	1
	Cambridgeshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	City of London	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	—
	Cleveland	10	46	109	214	154	137	152	202	109	62
	Derbyshire	1	—	—	6	32	29	16	8	16	6
	Devon and Cornwall	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
	Dorset	17	9	4	8	10	4	4	—	—	13
	Essex	27	16	10	30	40	3	1	—	1	—
	Greater Manchester	86	54	12	61	35	22	19	22	8	8
	Hampshire	9	3	10	15	10	12	8	6	7	8
	Humberside	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	Kent	—	—	2	1	6	5	—	3	—	5
	Lancashire	1	2	—	1	—	9	5	4	2	—
	Leicestershire	8	10	2	—	4	16	1	1	—	—
	Merseyside	7	2	—	2	34	1	—	—	5	7
	Metropolitan Police	303	311	301	264	294	348	339	377	288	259
	Norfolk	68	37	17	6	2	—	2	—	—	1
	Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	12	8	28	29	42	45
	Nottinghamshire	56	65	45	25	46	17	6	8	16	12
	South Yorkshire	9	2	1	4	31	39	45	7	8	2
	Staffordshire	17	4	1	—	10	29	14	15	14	2
	Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1
	Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	6	—	—
	Warwickshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	West Midlands	104	93	44	42	49	72	67	39	66	52
	West Yorkshire	60	35	36	19	26	116	113	26	45	41
	Wiltshire	2	3	1	—	—	1	2	3	—	—
	South Wales	4	4	1	1	—	3	1	—	1	—
	England and Wales	813	700	599	700	775	891	834	760	635	532

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Note:

Where a police force area does not appear in the table there have been no convictions within that area for kerb crawling or brothel keeping.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of justice.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances have been reported to her Department of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 powers being used for cases unrelated to terrorism or serious crime. [204344]

Mr. McNulty: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 covers a number of different covert investigatory powers used by a broad spectrum of public bodies for a variety of purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, Secretary of State authorisation of intrusive techniques by intelligence and law enforcement agencies to combat terrorism and serious crime. In instances where Secretary of State authorisation is not required—such as the police use of informants, local council use of telephone billing records or regulatory body use of surveillance—there is no requirement to report the exercise of these powers to the Secretary of State. Authorisation of all these powers is subject to regular inspection by the Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Chief Surveillance Commissioner who publish annual reports on their findings. The most recent publications have been placed in the Library.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in relation to terrorist cases. [203823]

Mr. McNulty: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') introduced for the first time a regulatory framework for the use by public bodies of the covert investigative techniques necessary for carrying out their statutory functions. RIPA requires that authorisation of covert investigatory techniques is consistent with ECHR Article 8 principles, relating to the necessity and proportionality of their use in each case. It also establishes safeguards such as independent Commissioners to oversee the use by public bodies of covert investigatory techniques, and an independent Investigatory Powers Tribunal to investigate complaints. The Security and Intelligence Agencies and the Law Enforcement Agencies comply with the requirements of the Act in all investigations requiring the use of covert investigatory techniques, including terrorist investigations.

Stop and Search

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their vehicle stopped and searched under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since 2000; and how many of those were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of (i) a notifiable offence and (ii) a terrorism-related offence in (A) each police force area and (B) England and Wales. [200255]

Mr. McNulty: The stops and search statistical collection, held by the Ministry of Justice, identifies vehicles and occupants searched under s44(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000. The information is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecutions and convictions. The available information is given in the following table.

Searches of vehicles[1] under section 44(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000, by police force area, from 2001-02 to 2005-06, England and Wales

Police force area	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06[2]*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cheshire	7	58	—	—	—	65
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	5	—	—	—	—	5
Devon and Cornwall	2	—	2	—	—	4
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	235	—	—	—	—	235
Essex	—	—	4	124	148	276
Gloucestershire	4	4	1	—	—	9
Greater Manchester	—	89	37	235	—	361
Hampshire	—	2	17	35	67	121
Hertfordshire	3	—	—	—	—	3
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	8	—	—	—	8
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	1	3	—	—	—	4
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
London, City of	1	42	24	21	210	298
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	1,108	10,198	4,157	3,038	4,815	23,316
Norfolk	—	2	—	—	—	2
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	40	—	40
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	3	2	5
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	205	105	—	—	—	310
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	1	—	—	—	1
Surrey	—	8	1	5	—	14
Sussex	64	32	10	59	—	165
Thames Valley	—	—	3	1	1	5
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	1	1
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—

Searches of vehicles[1] under section 44(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000, by police force area, from 2001-02 to 2005-06, England and Wales

Police force area	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[2]	*Total*
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	2	2
North Wales	—	—	1	—	—	1
South Wales	—	—	139	231	258	628
England and Wales	1,635	10,552	4,396	3,793	5,504	25,880

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only, or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. Data given in the table are where a vehicle only has been searched.

[2] Figures have been updated following publication of the bulletin for 2004-05.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2066W, on stop and search, if she will place in the Library the most recent information on *(a)* the number of stops and searches conducted (i) in total and (ii) per 1,000 population and *(b)* the percentages which resulted in arrest (A) in England and Wales and (B) in each police force area. [201596]

Mr. McNulty: The most recent information available held by the Ministry of Justice remains data for 2005-06. Data for 2006-07 will be published later this year.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 16th October 2007, *Official Report*, column 983W, on stop and search, what the ethnicity was of each person stopped under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 since 2004-05. [201599]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the breakdown by ethnicity of persons stopped under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is provided in the following table. Statistics are published by the Home Office under Section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, and can be found on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html and the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/raceandcjs.htm

Searches of vehicles[1] and occupants, and pedestrians under Section 44(1) and (2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[2], England and Wales 2001-02 to 2004-05

	Ethnicity					
	White	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not recorded*	*Total*
2001-02	6,629	529	744	358	260	8,520
2002-03	14,429	1,745	2,989	1,259	1,155	21,577
2003-04	20,600	2.701	3,659	1,324	1,099	29,383
2004-05	24,771	2,742	3,693	1,428	543	33,177
2005-06	30,837	4,155	6,805	1,937	809	44,543

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. These figures exclude searches of vehicles only.

[2] The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report produced by surveillance inspectors of the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners relating to local authority activities in the last 12 months; [202836]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the form that local authorities must complete to be authorised to conduct a directed surveillance operation; [202880]

(3) if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance given to local authorities by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners on surveillance; [202881]

(4) how many local authorities are authorised under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to undertake surveillance; and for what purposes; [202882]

(5) if she will make a statement on the appropriateness of local authorities undertaking surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in relation to whether families live in school catchment areas. [202883]

Mr. McNulty: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners is independent of Government and it is a matter for them whether to publish their inspection reports on individual local authorities. There are no plans currently to do so. However, the annual reports of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner are published and copies are in the Library.

The most recent version of the form available to local authorities for the authorisation of directed surveillance is available together with other standard forms applicable to covert investigation on the Home Office security website. The Home Office security website and the website of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners contain copies of the relevant codes of practice and other guidance to local authorities, including the annual reports of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners. The websites can be accessed at the following addresses:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk; and

http://www.surveillancecommissioners.gov.uk

There are 468 primary councils, excluding parish and community councils, which are able to authorise directed surveillance under the Regulation of

Investigatory Powers Act 2000. That Act specifies that they are able to use directed surveillance for the purpose of preventing or of detecting crime or disorder and this includes fraud. The powers are used in the exercise of their regulatory responsibilities in such areas as investigating trading standards, housing and planning matters, benefit fraud and education services.

It would be unhelpful to comment on specific cases but, generally, determining whether a family lives in a school's catchment area is a proper regulatory function that a local education authority may undertake. In deciding whether to authorise directed surveillance, the authorising officer in the local authority is required to be satisfied in each case that this is both necessary and proportionate to what is sought to be achieved by carrying it out. This will include whether the information could reasonably be obtained by any other means. Local authority use of directed surveillance powers is subject to regular inspection by the independent Office of Surveillance Commissioners. Anyone who believes that they have been unlawfully targeted by a public authority's use of covert investigatory powers can apply to the independent Investigatory Powers Tribunal to investigate their claim. The Tribunal can be contacted at PO Box 33220, London SW1H 9ZQ. Its telephone number is 020 7035 3711.

Surveillance: Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many waste collection authorities are authorised under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to undertake surveillance in relation to waste offences. [204885]

Mr. McNulty: Domestic waste collection is a responsibility of local authorities. There are 468 primary councils, excluding parish and community councils, which are able to authorise directed surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or of preventing disorder in the carrying out of their responsibilities.

Telephone Tapping

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will estimate the number of times unauthorised monitoring of telephone conversations has taken place since 2005; [204119]

(2) how many times Ministers authorised *(a)* telephone tapping and *(b)* telephone tapping of solicitors' conversations with their clients in 2007; [204120]

(3) how many times the monitoring of solicitors' conversations with their clients has been authorised under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [204121]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the independent Interception of Communications Commissioner. The Commissioner's annual published reports on his findings are available in the Library.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the police plan to investigate the recent cases of television broadcaster misconduct in the use of premium rate telephone services in viewer competitions and voting; and if she will make a statement. [205855]

Mr. McNulty: Matters of misconduct by broadcasters is a matter for the Office of Communications (OFCOM). It is an operational matter for the police to determine whether an investigation should be conducted in response to any allegation of a criminal offence.

Touting: Tickets

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the police on policing of ticket touting at football matches. [206974]

Mr. Coaker: I have had no recent discussions with the police on the policing of ticket touting legislation at football matches. In September 2007 my officials commissioned a report from the UK football policing unit, produced in consultation with police match commanders, the findings of which reinforced policy behind the existing strategy.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the policing of ticket touting at football matches. [206975]

Mr. Coaker: Ticket touting in respect of regulated football matches is prohibited under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. This public order provision explicitly applies to football in view of the importance of segregation in reducing the potential for disorder between rival fans.

The police and courts can and do enforce the legislation in a proportionate and targeted way when breaches to the segregation of supporters might result in an increased risk to public order.

It is a decision for the match commander of each police operation as to whether it is appropriate to direct resources to deal with ticket touts. It is important not to confuse public order and commercial interests associated with ticket touting.

UK Border Agency: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report,* columns 108-09W, on UK Border Agency: Wales, how many UK Borders Agency staff located in Wales are based at *(a)* Pembroke Dock, *(b)* Fishguard, *(c)* Swansea and *(d)* Holyhead. [206408]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* In line with my response to the hon. Member of 16 April 2007, *Official Report,* column 463W, this information cannot be disclosed as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent immigration controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of immigration offences.

HEALTH

Asthma: Children

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP consultations with children were asthma-related in each of the last five years. [206001]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Cancer: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding for research and development related to *(a)* anti-cancer surgical procedures and *(b)* cancer drugs the Government has provided in each of the last five years. [207076]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 19 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 114W.

The information requested in respect of cancer drugs is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on cancer drug research

		£ million
	Department	*Medical Research Council*
2002-03	2.8	3.7
2003-04	2.7	4.7
2004-05	2.8	4.6
2005-06	2.7	5.3
2006-07	3	5.4

Over the last ten years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations.

Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time, including a number concerned with the use of drugs in the treatment of cancer, are available on the archived national research register at

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

The departmental expenditure figures shown in the table relate only to national research programmes.

Care Homes

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were in full-time *(a)* residential and *(b)* nursing care at the latest date for which information is available; and what proportion of people in each category were in receipt of means-tested financial support from public funds. [206368]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the residential and nursing care placements funded partially or fully by councils with adults social services responsibilities (CASSRs) is collected on the annual SR1 form and published by the Information Centre for health and social care. Data for placements not funded by CASSRs are not collected centrally.

The available information is shown in the following table.

Council supported residents in permanent registered residential and nursing care by type of care[1], England, as at 31 March 2007

Type of care	*Residential*	*Nursing*
Residents aged 18 and over	163,235[2]	68,2702

[1] Figures do not include residents in adult placements. [2] Rounded figures. *Source:* SR1 form, table one.

Colorectal Cancer

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths resulting from colorectal cancers there were in each year between 2002 and 2007 in each region; what per capita figure for the whole population this figure represents; and what five year survival rates were in each year in each region. [206692]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths resulting from colorectal cancers there were in each year between 2002 and 2007 in each region; what per capita figure for the whole population this figure represents; and what five year survival rates were in each year in each region. (206692)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where colorectal cancer was the underlying cause of death in each English government office region by sex (table 1), and age standardised mortality rates for each English government office region by sex (table 2), for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

The latest relevant five year survival rates that are available are five year age-standardised relative survival rates by government office region, for cancer of the colon, for adult patients diagnosed during 1997-1999 and followed up to the end of 2004. These figures, and comparable figures for patients followed up to the end of 2002 and 2003, are available to download from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991

Five year survival rate figures are not available for colorectal (bowel) cancer or cancer of the rectum.

Table 1. counts of deaths where colorectal cancer was the underlying cause of death,[1] English government office regions, 2002-06[2,3]

						Deaths (persons)
Sex	*Region*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Male	North East	421	416	400	466	414
	North West	1,012	975	1,028	1,024	982
	Yorkshire and the Humber	758	725	700	726	716

Table 1. counts of deaths where colorectal cancer was the underlying cause of death,[1] English government office regions, 2002-06[2,3]

Deaths (persons)

Sex	*Region*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	East Midlands	618	665	608	612	596
	West Midlands	767	770	821	797	782
	East of England	749	759	789	750	761
	London	772	733	675	647	696
	South East	1,089	1,073	1,106	1,124	1,138
	South West	799	767	819	792	788
	England	6,985	6.883	6,946	6,938	6,873
Female	North East	340	328	336	324	292
	North West	836	815	799	858	815
	Yorkshire and the Humber	643	612	604	576	581
	East Midlands	542	531	518	494	486
	West Midlands	632	626	636	643	647
	East of England	732	674	706	661	664
	London	696	663	721	642	653
	South East	1,027	1,062	1,002	1,049	1,118
	South West	753	708	710	739	739
	England	6,201	6,019	6,032	5,986	5,995

[1] Cause of death for colorectal cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C18-C20.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1,2] where colorectal cancer was the underlying cause of death,[3] English government office regions, 2002-06[4,5]

Rate per 100,000 population

		2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*	
Sex	*GOR*	*Rate*	*95% CI*	*Rate*	*95% CI*	*Rate*	*95% CI*	*Rate*	*95% CI*	*Rate*	*95% CI*
Male	North East	28	(25-30)	27	(24-30)	25	(23-28)	29	(26-31)	25	(23-27)
	North West	25	(24-27)	24	(23-26)	25	(24-27)	25	(23-26)	23	(22-25)
	Yorkshire and the Humber	26	(24-28)	24	(22-26)	23	(21-24)	23	(21-25)	22	(21-24)
	East Midlands	24	(22-26)	25	(23-27)	23	(21-24)	22	(20-24)	21	(19-22)
	West Midlands	24	(22-26)	24	(22-26)	25	(24-27)	24	(22-25)	23	(21-25)
	East of England	22	(21-24)	22	(20-23)	22	(20-23)	21	(19-22)	20	(19-22)
	London	23	(21-24)	22	(20-23)	20	(18-21)	19	(17-20)	20	(18-21)
	South East	22	(21-23)	21	(20-22)	21	(20-23)	21	(20-23)	21	(20-23)
	South West	23	(22-25)	22	(20-23)	23	(21-24)	21	(20-23)	21	(19-22)
	England	24	(23-24)	23	(22-24)	23	(22-23)	22	(22-23)	22	(21-22)
Female	North East	15	(13-17)	14	(13-16)	14	(13-16)	14	(13-16)	13	(11-14)
	North West	14	(13-15)	14	(13-14)	14	(13-15)	15	(14-16)	14	(13-15)
	Yorkshire and the Humber	15	(14-16)	14	(13-15)	13	(12-14)	13	(12-14)	13	(12-14)
	East Midlands	15	(14-16)	15	(14-17)	14	(13-15)	14	(12-15)	13	(12-14)
	West Midlands	14	(13-15)	14	(13-15)	14	(13-15)	14	(13-15)	13	(12-15)
	East of England	15	(14-16)	14	(13-15)	15	(14-16)	13	(12-14)	13	(12-14)
	London	14	(13-15)	13	(12-14)	15	(14-16)	13	(12-14)	13	(12-14)
	South East	14	(13-15)	14	(13-15)	14	(13-14)	14	(13-15)	15	(14-16)

Table 2. Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1,2] where colorectal cancer was the underlying cause of death,[3] English government office regions, 2002-06[4,5]

Rate per 100,000 population

		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
Sex	*GOR*	*Rate*	*95% CI*	*Rate*	*95% CI*	*Rate*	*95% CI*	*Rate*	*95% CI*	*Rate*	*95% CI*
	South West	15	(14-16)	14	(13-15)	13	(12-14)	14	(13-15)	14	(13-15)
	England	14	(14-15)	14	(14-14)	14	(14-14)	14	(13-14)	13	(13-14)

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals (CIs) are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C18-C20.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average payment was to orthodontists supplying dental braces to those under the age of 18 years by the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available; and what comparison he has made with the average payment for such private work. [206606]

Ann Keen: This information is not available. Since April 2006, primary care dentists including orthodontists are paid on the basis of the overall level of patient care they provide each year rather then on the basis of set fees for individual treatments. Primary care trusts set contract values and service level requirements locally. The levels of patient care delivered are then measured by weighting the courses of treatment provided by each dentist according to their relative complexity and whether they included the provision of any appliances including dental braces. The Department does not collect data on charges levied by dentists for private dental treatments.

Emergency Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates officials in his Department held discussions with officials in the Welsh Assembly Government on the cross-border provision of urgent care services in the last 12 months; and what the content of these discussions was. [189227]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are responsible for ensuring the provision of high quality urgent care services. The Department has not held any discussions with Welsh Assembly officials on the cross-border provision of urgent care services in the last 12 months.

Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to make NHS services more personalised. [206716]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table summarises the recent developments to make national health service services more personalised. The Government are taking forward Lord Darzi's vision for personalised care as set out in his interim report, "Our NHS, our future", copies of the interim report are available in the Library. Lord Darzi's final report will be published in the summer.

Policy/initiative	*What's been done*
Choice and personalisation	With effect from 1 April 2008: Most patients who are referred for elective care will be able to choose to be treated by any NHS funded provider—in essence, any provider that holds a standard NHS contract. This includes NHS foundation trusts, NHS acutes and many independent sector providers and their hospitals. This is free choice; We also expect primary care trusts (PCTs) to improve care for people with long-term conditions (LTCs) and to ensure more choices for these patients. We expect PCTs to roll out choice to all people in their area with an LTC, with local flexibility on the pace and priorities, and we have supported this by publishing a model of care for long-term conditions, embedded in effective care planning, that provides good practice examples aimed at reducing inequalities; and PCTs are taking forward commitments to introduce choice of services for maternity.
Care planning	We are planning to issue a framework for commissioners in June 2008, which will describe care planning as a process, centred around the person, which supports and promotes personalisation. During 2008, we will bring forward a patients' prospectus that sets out how we will extend to all 15 million patients with a chronic or long-term condition access to a choice of "active patient" or "care at home" options—clinically appropriate to them and supported by the NHS.
Information Prescriptions (IPs)	IPs are being introduced for everyone with a LTC which will guide them to relevant and reliable sources of information to allow them to feel more in control and better able to manage their condition.
NHS Choices	NHS Choices is the NHS's online service for the public—the digital wing of the NHS. Launched in 2007, it is a response to the 21st century challenges of delivering high-quality personalised services for all. It is regularly updated to provide more information to patients.
Choice and mental health	We are committed to giving people with mental health problems choice and a more personalised service, including making more information available about mental illness to help people manage their own care. In the last year, work has been on-going, both locally and nationally, to increase the level of choice offered to people with mental health problems.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government intend to take to encourage primary care trusts to be more responsive to their local communities. [206751]

Ann Keen: The World Class Commissioning Programme aims to dramatically transform the way health and care services are commissioned in this country. As commissioners, primary care trusts (PCTs) act on behalf of the public and patients. They are responsible for investing funds on behalf of their communities, and building local trust and legitimacy through the process of engagement with their local population. In order to make world class commissioning decisions that reflect the needs, priorities and aspirations of the local population, commissioners will need to engage with the public, and actively seek the views of patients, carers and the wider community. Decisions should be made with a strong mandate from the local population and other partners.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 contained important measures designed to strengthen the patient and public involvement system in England, including the introduction of local involvement networks (LINks) and the updated duty on NHS bodies to involve users of health services.

The Act established duties on health and social care services-providers—including PCTs—to respond to LINks when they report on the needs and experiences of local people in respect of their health and social care services.

LINks, together with the new duty on national health service bodies to involve, and to report on consultations, will play a vital role in encouraging and enabling a greater range of people to influence the commissioning and provision of health and social care bringing real accountability to the whole system, from commissioning to front-line care.

All of these changes are aimed at promoting open and transparent communication between communities and the health service, and will develop trust and confidence, increasing accountability to local people.

Hearing Impaired: Medical Equipment

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for the fitting of digital hearing aids by NHS hospital trusts are; and if he will make a statement. [207348]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data are not currently collected. The Department will start monthly data collections on waits for audiology treatment, including the fitting of hearing aids. in May 2008 to cover treatment carried out in April 2008. We will publish these data as soon as they are of sufficiently robust quality.

Hospitals: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue was generated by charges imposed upon *(a)* staff, *(b)* patients and *(c)* others for the use of car parks at (i) Broomfield and (ii) St John's hospitals in Chelmsford in each of the last five years. [206923]

Mr. Bradshaw: Hospital car parking charges are decided locally by individual trusts to help cover the cost of running and maintaining a car park. All trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors.

The East of England Strategic Health Authority advises that the Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust provide 15 minutes free parking to allow people to be dropped off and picked up at the hospital. In addition, it provides free parking to anyone holding a local authority blue disabled badge and offers reduced priced tickets to frequent users and a weekly ticket for longer-term users.

Data on the gross income that national health service trusts receive from car parking charges paid by staff and visitors have been collected since 2000. These data are provided by the NHS on a voluntary basis and have not been amended following their collection, nor have they been actively checked by the Department and therefore cannot be confirmed to be accurate or complete.

Information in respect of Broomfield and St John's hospitals in Chelmsford is shown in the following table.

	Total gross income from staff parking	*Total gross income from patient and visitor parking*
Broomfield Hospital		
2002-03	85,386	423,783
2003-04	31,851	295,075
2004-05	51,366	503,418
2005-06	62,383	598,525
2006-07	89,000	689,740
St. John's Hospital		
2002-03	28,462	141,261
2003-04	13,650	126,461
2004-05	12,916	120,645
2005-06	12,569	128,913
2006-07	2,247	162,214

Hospitals: Children

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 10 most common causes of childhood emergency *(a)* admissions to and *(b)* attendances at hospital were in each of the last five years. [206000]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table. Information is not currently available centrally on reason for attendances at accident and emergency departments.

Number of emergency admissions for the 10 most common primary diagnoses of children aged under 18 in each of the last five years, 2006-07 to 2002-03—National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Primary diagnosis	*Total episodes*
	2006-07	
J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites	40,928

Number of emergency admissions for the 10 most common primary diagnoses of children aged under 18 in each of the last five years, 2006-07 to 2002-03—National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Primary diagnosis	Total episodes
B34	Viral infection of unspecified site	34,550
R10	Abdominal and pelvic pain	34,120
J45	Asthma	26,781
R06	Abnormalities of breathing	23,574
A08	Viral and other specified intestinal infections	22,349
S52	Fracture of forearm	21,241
J21	Acute bronchiolitis	20,747
R56	Convulsions not elsewhere classified	18,816
K52	Other noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis	18,162
	2005-06	
J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites	42,003
R10	Abdominal and pelvic pain	34,941
B34	Viral infection of unspecified site	31,770
J21	Acute bronchiolitis	23,388
J45	Asthma	22,839
A08	Viral and other specified intestinal infections	22,512
S52	Fracture of forearm	21,125
R06	Abnormalities of breathing	20,421
R56	Convulsions not elsewhere classified	19,446
K52	Other noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis	18,128
	2004-05	
J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites	38,989
R10	Abdominal and pelvic pain	33,232
B34	Viral infection of unspecified site	29,288
J45	Asthma	25,817
A08	Viral and other specified intestinal infections	23,155
S52	Fracture of forearm	21,440
R06	Abnormalities of breathing	20,602
J21	Acute bronchiolitis	19,992
K52	Other noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis	19,237
R56	Convulsions not elsewhere classified	18,609
	2003-04	
J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites	41,283
B34	Viral infection of unspecified site	32,353
R10	Abdominal and pelvic pain	30,968
S52	Fracture of forearm	22,936
J45	Asthma	22,690
J21	Acute bronchiolitis	20,362
A08	Viral and other specified intestinal infections	19,443
R56	Convulsions not elsewhere classified	19,199
R06	Abnormalities of breathing	17,668
K52	Other noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis	16,799
	2002-03	
J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites	36,209
B34	Viral infection of unspecified site	31,260
R10	Abdominal and pelvic pain	28,565
S52	Fracture of forearm	22,861
A08	Viral and other specified intestinal infections	21,809
J45	Asthma	21,795
K52	Other noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis	19,280
J21	Acute bronchiolitis	19,073
R56	Convulsions not elsewhere classified	17,601
R06	Abnormalities of breathing	16,347

Number of emergency admissions for the 10 most common primary diagnoses of children aged under 18 in each of the last five years, 2006-07 to 2002-03—National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

Notes:

1. Finished admission episodes (FAEs): An FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Data quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
4. Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis): The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES dataset and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
5. Ungrossed Data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

HES, The Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS matrons have powers to withhold payment to cleaning service providers. [206374]

Ann Keen: Matrons have the authority to set and monitor standards in cleaning contracts and to remedy problems if they occur. This includes by withholding payment from cleaning services which do not deliver.

We have issued guidance that sets out the expected processes to be followed when matrons, in conjunction with trust chief executives, are considering imposing penalties on a contractor or an in-house provider. The guidance makes it clear that local resolution is to be preferred, however, withholding payment is an option to be considered amid trusts' contract monitoring and associated escalation procedures.

Hospitals: Procurement

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department has issued to hospitals on the procurement of food from small, local producers. [205236]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) has encouraged the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as national and multi-national suppliers, in tendering for framework agreements for food products to the national health service and this objective has transferred over to the NHS Supply Chain since they took over the role of food procurement in October 2006.

The tendering opportunities available to SMEs enabled their offers to be limited to deliveries within their preferred geographical locations and within their product range. Additionally, NHS PASA promoted the same procurement initiative for NHS trusts to adopt through their own direct contracts. NHS PASA also provided advice to ensure trusts remained in compliance with the European Union (EU) procurement directives as the specifying of local food could contravene the EU directives.

Within procuring for health and sustainability, trusts are also encouraged to work against the good corporate citizen toolkit.

Meat Hygiene Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the findings of the recent Food Standards Agency study in relation to the status and structure of the Meat Hygiene Service. [207317]

Dawn Primarolo: Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board papers and minutes are published on the FSA's website. They include the Final Report of the Review of the Delivery of Official Controls in Approved Meat Premises, which the FSA Board considered in July 2007 and at which targets were set for the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) and information was requested on possible outsourcing of part of the MHS. The FSA Board decided at its meeting on 7 May 2008 that the option of piloting an alternative to the MHS should not be pursued and that available resources should be focused on MHS modernisation. The May Board papers will be available after 13 June 2008 on the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/aboutus/ourboard/boardmeetings

Mental Health Services

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure that forensic medical examiners are qualified to diagnose mental health problems. [184179]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) offers some police-based training to forensic physicians and works in conjunction with the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM). The FFLM ensures that individuals employed in this field receive the appropriate support through regular medical updates and a facilitation service provided by experienced, subject matter experts.

Further, external training is also available in order to assist medical staff to assess the mental health state of persons in custody and to make judgement on whether they are, or are not, fit enough to be detained and/or interviewed (Section 12 of the Mental Health Act 1983—'assessment of persons in custody' sets this process out in detail). The NPIA ensures that student medical examiners are made aware of these procedures, but does not train them to 'Section 12 Approved doctor' status as referred to under the Act. Section 12 training is approved by regional approval panels which oversee the appointment of doctors applying for section 12 approval.

NHS: Infectious Diseases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a list of the products submitted to the Rapid Review Panel for consideration for use in fighting infection in the NHS in the last year for which information is available. [206356]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the products that have been submitted to the Rapid Review Panel for consideration for use in fighting infection in the national health service in the last year for which information is available (April 2007 to April 2008).

Company name	*Product name*
DuPont	DuPont Relu+On Prion Inactivator
Giltech Ltd.	Silvatec Anti-Microbial Cleansing Bar
Remedy Research Ltd.	Ultramicrofibre (UMF) cloths/CuWB50
Teknon	Biocleanse
Ximax Ltd.	TwinOxide
Redwood Valley Ltd.	Original Oxygen Cream
Remedy Research Ltd.	Hand Gel/CuAL42
Cepheid Europe	Xpert MRSA
ConvaTec	Flexi-Seal Faecal Management System (FMS)
Remedy Research Ltd.	Laundry/CuWB50
Total Integration Ltd.	NowcleanZ
Air and Environmental	Environmental Air Sanitizer
Bioquell (Resub)	Bioquell Hydrogen Peroxide Vapour System
Greenbridge (Resub)	Active8 Hard Surface Cleaner
Greenbridge (Resub)	Active8 Floor Cleaner
Greenbridge (Resub)	Active8 Vapourisation Formulation
Greenbridge (Resub)	Active8 Sanitisation Wipes
Metatecta	MetaSteric system
Synergy Healthcare plc.	Assure
Systemsolv Ltd.	Air-Raid
Talley Environmental Care Ltd.	TECare Disinfectant Cleaner
Addison Smith Ltd.	70 per cent. Bamboo—30 per cent. Cotton Woven Fabric
Cupron (resub)	Cupron
Deb (Cutan Resub)	Cutan foam hand sanitiser
Perfect Essentials UK	Perfect Hand Protectant and Sanitiser
Hollister Ltd.	Zassi—bowl management system
Rochester Medical	Release-NF Anti-Infection Foley Catheter
CIAT	NEO BIO
Tri-Air Developments Ltd.	Tri-Air Developments Purifier
GAMA	Clinell Alchoholic 2 per cent. Chlorhexidine
Hyso International Ltd.	Hyso Automatic Door Handle Deep Cleaning System
Toray Textiles	See it Safe antimicrobial fabrics
Deb (Cutan Resub)	Cutan foam hand sanitiser
Perma-Health	SpheriKill
Safeway Hygiene	Hand Hygiene Unit (HHU)
Ackw Lts T/A SAS	Showersafe
3M Healthcare (Biotrace)	Clean Trace

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's procedure is for the introduction of new infection control technologies in the NHS following a recommendation from its Rapid Review Panel. [206357]

Ann Keen: The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) was set up in 2004 to review new health care associated infection related technologies. The RRP provides a prompt assessment of new and novel equipment, materials, and other products or protocols that may be of value to the national health service in improving infection prevention and control. The RRP has already reviewed over 200 products, providing feedback and opinion in one of seven categories, with recommendation 1 being the highest category where the efficacy of a product has been proved scientifically and in use.

A wide range of new programmes is being implemented to support the RRP as a consequence of the Healthcare Associated Infection Technology Innovation Programme launched in the "Clean, safe care" strategy (January 2008). Technologies with a RRP recommendation 1 are being placed in showcase hospitals around the country for periods up to six months for the purpose of evaluating in-use features and providing feedback to the NHS in the form of ready made adoption business cases. Such technologies are also subject to an accelerated placement in the NHS Supply Chain catalogue.

Uptake will be reviewed through information provided by the NHS Supply Chain where this is appropriate. Plans are also being developed to provide support to technologies that have RRP Panel two and three recommendations.

NHS: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dieticians worked in the NHS in each year since 1997; what the full-time equivalent figure was in each such year; and how many patient contacts with dieticians there were in each such year. [206667]

Ann Keen: The number and full-time equivalent figure for dieticians working in the national health service in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

The number of patient contacts with dieticians is not collected centrally.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services: Dieticians 1997-2007 number and full-time equivalent (FTE). England as at 30 September each year

	Dietetics—Numbers	Dietetics FTE
1997	2,287	1,864
1998	2,383	1,961
1999	2,517	2,058
2000	2,607	2,129
2001	2,772	2,255
2002	2,906	2,377
2003	3,122	2,565
2004	3,235	2,664
2005	3,407	2,792
2006	3,413	2,823
2007	3,513	2,924

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many weight management counsellors are employed by each strategic health authority. [206077]

Ann Keen: Weight management counsellors are not identified in the national health service work force census. However this role may be undertaken by dieticians; the number of dieticians by strategic health authority (SHA) is shown on the following tables.

NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST and T) staff by SHA area—England as at September 2007

Headcount

	England	North east	North west	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South east coast	South central	South west	Special health authorities and others
All qualified dietetics staff	3,513	192	551	427	229	335	336	688	229	225	301	0
Consultant Therapist	7	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	0
Manager	192	9	36	18	9	16	16	41	19	15	13	0
Therapist	3,314	182	515	409	220	318	319	644	209	210	288	0
All dietetics support staff	256	24	60	26	26	15	20	32	15	15	23	0
Assistant practitioner	7	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0
Student/ trainee	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
Helper/ assistant	241	23	59	25	26	15	19	29	15	7	23	0

NHS HCHS: qualified ST and T staff by SHA area—England as at September 2007

Full-time equivalent

	England	North east	North west	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South east coast	South central	South west	Special health authorities and others
All qualified dietetics staff	2,924	165	475	367	190	274	275	590	185	167	237	0

NHS HCHS: qualified ST and T staff by SHA area—England as at September 2007

Full-time equivalent

	England	*North east*	*North west*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South east coast*	*South central*	*South west*	*Special health authorities and others*
Consultant Therapist	7	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	0
Manager	172	9	33	17	9	14	15	36	16	12	11	0
Therapist	2,745	156	442	350	181	260	259	551	168	154	226	0
All dietetics support staff	189	18	44	19	21	11	16	19	12	13	16	0
Assistant practitioner	6	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0
Student/ trainee	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
Helper/ assistant	175	17	43	18	21	11	15	17	12	5	16	0

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care 2007 Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet members of the National Association of LINks members to discuss the review of the NHS. [206246]

Ann Keen: Although the Department is not aware of a formal request from the National Association of LINks Members for a ministerial meeting, departmental officials have recently met with the chairman of the organisation to discuss a number of issues including the national health service next stage review.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's target waiting times for the fitting of digital hearing aids by NHS hospital trusts are; and if he will make a statement. [207350]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Patients referred to ear nose and throat (ENT) consultant-led care, who subsequently require hearing aid fitting, are covered by the target that no one should wait longer than 18 weeks from referral to treatment by December 2008, unless it is clinically appropriate or they choose to do so. The Department does not have a target for non consultant-led care for the fitting of hearing aids.

NHS: Working hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1044W, on the NHS: working hours, when *(a)* each pilot will conclude and *(b)* the report of each pilot will be published. [206649]

Ann Keen: Information has been placed in the Library, which outlines when the pilots will be completed. The pilot reports will be published shortly afterwards.

NHS National Workforce Projects were commissioned by the Department to support national health service trusts with implementation of the European working time directive for doctors in training. They recognise the need to ensure that pilot material is shared across the NHS at the earliest opportunity and share learning throughout the life of the projects.

Polyclinics

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role the independent sector is likely to have in the provision of polyclinics. [207077]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have asked primary care trusts to undertake open and fair tendering processes to secure new general practitioner (GP)-led health centres and new GP practices in underserved areas. These services will be in addition to existing GP practices. A range of contractors will put forward tenders to be considered by each primary care trust (PCT) and the mix between independent commercial sector, independent voluntary sector, national health service bodies and independent GP contractors will vary locally. Our overriding objective is for PCTs to secure additional access and extra choice to primary medical services delivered by providers that offer the best quality and value for money to ensure patients' access to services are improved and the population's overall health improves.

Primary Care Trusts: Vacancies

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of London primary care trusts have a vacancy for the position of Director of Public Health; [197115]

(2) what proportion of London primary care trusts have a vacancy for the post of Finance Director. [197116]

Mr. Bradshaw: This requested information is not held centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to ensure they have the staff they need to provide services to their local communities.

I understand that London strategic health authority (SHA) has established a training programme to develop senior managers, including potential future directors of public health. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this matter directly with the chief executive of London SHA.

Radiography

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many radiographers each primary care trust has per 100,000 people in its area; [205996]

(2) how many radiographers each primary care trust had per 100,000 people in its area in each of the last five years. [205997]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of radiographers each strategic health authority (SHA) had per 100,000 people in its area for 2002 to 2006 inclusive.

The number of radiographers each primary care trust has per 100,000 people is not available. Over 98 per cent. of qualified radiography staff are employed by national health service trusts, but population data are collected by primary care trust (PCT). However, PCT population data cannot be accurately mapped to NHS trust areas, so the nearest available comparable data are by SHA area. Also, 2007 population data are not yet available so for the sake of comparability the table is for the years 2002-06.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services: Qualified radiography staff in England by SHA area per 100,000 population as at 30 September each specified year

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	26	27	28	29	29
North East SHA area	29	30	31	32	31
North West SHA area	32	33	34	36	35
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA area	30	31	31	32	31
East Midlands SHA area	23	23	24	25	25
West Midlands SHA area	24	25	27	28	28
East of England SHA area	24	24	23	24	25
London SHA area	26	26	27	29	29
South East coast SHA area	21	22	23	25	25
South Central SHA area	24	34	25	25	25
South West SHA area	28	28	29	30	30

Note:
Figures are calculated on the headcount number of radiography staff.
Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census
Mid year Population Estimate (2001 Census Based), Office for National Statistics

Social Services: Finance

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether local authorities may use the age of a person needing care as a basis for determining the level of a direct payment made to an adult in order to purchase care. [206548]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Guidance on assessment is set out in LAC(2002)13: 'Fair access to Care Services: Guidance on eligibility for Adult social care'. The guidance is clear that local authorities, when determining the level of a direct payment must base their decision on an assessment of an individual's needs.

It is up to the council to decide on the amount of a direct payment. The direct payment should be sufficient to enable the recipient lawfully to secure a service of a standard that the council considers is reasonable to fulfil the needs for the service to which the payment relates. There is no limit on the maximum or minimum amount of a direct payment either in the amount of care it is intended to purchase or on the value of the direct payment.

Copies of the 'Direct Payments Guidance: Community Care, Services for Carers and Children's services (Direct Payments) Guidance England 2003' have been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what evidence the evaluation of the individual budget pilot projects has produced on the extent to which local authorities are allocating differing budgets to adults with identical needs solely on the basis of age; [206549]

(2) how he will ensure that local authorities provide adequate advice and information to support the expansion of individual budgets announced in the Putting People First Concordat; and how decisions on awarding individual budgets will be made. [206585]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is our intention to publish the evaluation of the individual budget pilots in the autumn.

Based on the experience of the pilots, the Department has published a resource toolkit for local authorities to help them transform their social care systems in the light of the cross-government concordat Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care. Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

The toolkit, available at:

http://self-assess.personalisation.org.uk/csips/qstart.php

contains advice on the allocation of resources for personal budgets and the provision of information and support for those receiving personal budgets. This will be further supported through the Department's regional programme. Local authorities retain responsibility for allocating funding to people eligible for social care.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish *(a)* the responses to the consultation on the future of social care funding, *(b)* the Government response to those responses and *(c)* a green paper on social care funding. [206643]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The six-month engagement process for the reform of care and support will conclude by the end of November 2008. We plan to publish a summary of the responses from the engagement process and the Government response to them in due course. This process will ultimately lead to a Green Paper in early 2009.

Social Services: Learning Disability

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1023-24W, on social services, how many people of working age with a learning disability in each local authority area received state funded social care support in each of the last 10 years. [207204]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of clients receiving services during a year is collected via table P1 of the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) return. The return was first collected from all councils in 2000-01 by the Department and the latest year for which data are available is 2006-07, now collected by the Information Centre for health and social care.

The following table shows the estimated number of service users whose primary client type is aged 18-64 with learning disabilities during the period for each council with adult social services responsibilities in England.

There are some issues to be aware of when comparing the data over time:

since 2002-03, clients who were formally in receipt of higher rates of income support under the Department for Work Pensions preserved rights (PR) scheme and who transferred to council support on 8 April 2002 have been included in the RAP return. Clients that were in receipt of preserved rights but who were already being partially supported by councils were previously included in the data and are not considered as clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights. This mainly effects clients in residential care; and

guidance relating to clients receiving services was restated for 2004-05 to only include clients who are assessed by social services and have a care plan. In previous years, some councils included clients receiving services from grant-funded organisations without a community care assessment and therefore the 2004-05 data are not comparable to previous years. Additional clarification was also given on the recording of some types of services. These amendments mainly affect clients receiving community-based services.

Number of clients whose primary client type is aged 18-64 with a learning disability receiving services during the period by year—England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded numbers

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1,2]	*2005-06*[1,2]	*2006-07*[1,2]
	England	101,000	101,000	113,000	116,000	117,000	122,000	125,000
	North-east							
	Shire counties							
116	Durham	1,115	1,260	1,365	1,525	1,560	1,535	1,620
104	Northumberland	965	860	855	1,060	1,080	1,120	1,205
	Unitary authorities							
117	Darlington	225	270	245	245	245	245	240
111	Hartlepool	245	245	240	260	255	275	280
112	Middlesbrough	580	575	425	370	410	450	455
113	Redcar and Cleveland	360	300	340	330	350	365	355
114	Stockton-on-Tees	—	350	355	355	350	425	500
	Metropolitan districts							
106	Gateshead	400	420	420	460	465	450	480
107	Newcastle upon Tyne	520	505	835	975	600	920	780
108	North Tyneside	—	515	470	690	455	490	560
109	South Tyneside	—	275	—	—	350	520	490
110	Sunderland	535	605	585	635	640	635	740
	North-west							
	Shire counties							
320	Cheshire	1,350	1,175	1,475	1,720	1,610	1,635	1,635
102	Cumbria	610	875	655	1,000	880	925	1,080
323	Lancashire	2,075	2,050	2,265	2,500	2,720	2,875	3,025
	Unitary authorities							
324	Blackburn	445	395	265	260	245	300	330
325	Blackpool	275	280	420	400	385	380	410
321	Halton	265	270	320	355	355	370	370
322	Warrington	375	400	530	380	390	425	420
	Metropolitan districts							
304	Bolton	465	500	570	490	565	570	575

Number of clients whose primary client type is aged 18-64 with a learning disability receiving services during the period by year—England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded numbers

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1,2]	*2005-06*[1,2]	*2006-07*[1,2]
305	Bury	245	310	350	355	500	405	340
315	Knowsley	390	495	500	485	515	515	550
316	Liverpool	755	820	865	885	1,535	1,155	1,225
306	Manchester	—	—	1,165	1,260	1,275	1,300	1,380
307	Oldham	450	655	670	690	695	635	600
308	Rochdale	—	515	605	460	450	460	510
309	Salford	—	680	645	615	660	685	660
317	Sefton	585	540	585	560	590	565	650
318	St. Helens	260	190	370	335	355	375	350
310	Stockport	610	565	810	1,200	935	970	1,125
311	Tameside	450	1,160	885	650	690	660	655
312	Trafford	10	295	630	315	380	410	405
313	Wigan	—	780	705	705	760	765	855
319	Wirral	740	735	780	745	765	765	770
	Yorkshire and the Humber							
	Shire counties							
218	North Yorkshire	1,330	1,645	1,450	1,195	1,315	1,275	1,305
	Unitary authorities							
214	East Riding	415	575	730	730	720	745	740
215	Kingston-upon-Hull	595	545	535	535	535	520	530
216	N E Lincolnshire	235	420	365	370	345	365	385
217	N Lincolnshire	630	275	320	405	405	405	385
219	York	355	325	415	415	390	435	425
	Metropolitan districts							
204	Barnsley	410	480	525	520	430	460	530
209	Bradford	—	870	1,045	1,025	1,185	1,375	1,385
210	Calderdale	395	425	545	415	470	490	530
205	Doncaster	440	495	505	480	540	595	655
211	Kirklees	1,085	1,330	1,030	950	960	1,020	955
212	Leeds	1,360	1,720	1,680	1,590	1,505	1,590	1,545
206	Rotherham	535	530	555	590	670	630	655
207	Sheffield	1,095	1,205	1,140	785	890	1,135	1,215
213	Wakefield	545	770	625	965	755	695	740
	East Midlands							
	Shire counties							
506	Derbyshire	1,765	1,570	1,630	1,960	1,855	1,925	1,915
508	Leicestershire	1,075	1,225	1,045	1,080	1,090	1,165	1,255
503	Lincolnshire	1,400	1,465	1,590	1,795	1,205	1,485	1,560
504	Northamptonshire	1,010	1,030	1,295	1,455	1,555	1,700	1,525
511	Nottinghamshire	1,810	1,710	1,675	1,855	2,045	2,145	2,125
	Unitary authorities							
507	Derby	450	440	530	550	555	560	610
509	Leicester	385	575	675	785	860	850	870
512	Nottingham	—	—	1,090	700	600	780	800
510	Rutland	70	70	75	50	60	55	65
	West Midlands							
	Shire counties							
417	Shropshire	725	610	735	805	840	805	780
413	Staffordshire	1,050	1,105	1,440	1,435	1,580	1,555	1,710
404	Warwickshire	820	855	935	990	1,090	935	1,005
416	Worcestershire	—	1,020	1,305	1,285	1,780	1,415	1,760

Number of clients whose primary client type is aged 18-64 with a learning disability receiving services during the period by year—England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded numbers

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1,2]	*2005-06*[1,2]	*2006-07*[1,2]
	Unitary authorities							
415	Herefordshire	395	440	440	450	470	455	475
414	Stoke-on-Trent	325	360	700	785	695	710	660
418	Telford and Wrekin	500	360	390	425	400	425	450
	Metropolitan districts							
406	Birmingham	1,365	1,415	2,035	2,340	2,645	3,095	2,470
407	Coventry	—	—	470	770	820	830	835
408	Dudley	550	770	740	680	735	780	795
409	Sandwell	—	—	620	545	585	555	610
410	Solihull	370	390	405	405	455	460	460
411	Walsall	185	485	555	635	600	635	675
412	Wolverhampton	500	500	525	505	490	510	510
	South-west							
	Shire counties							
902	Cornwall	1,185	1,420	1,545	1,805	1,705	1,405	1,320
912	Dev[illegible]	1,620	1,590	1,730	1,625	1,790	1,775	1,785
809	Dorset	660	775	755	815	765	785	700
904	Gloucestershire	1,090	1,045	1,170	1,310	1,240	1,320	1,455
906	Isles of Scilly	0	[3]—	0	0	[3]—	0	[3]—
905	Somerset	1,495	1,505	1,625	1,380	1,440	1,435	1,455
817	Wiltshire	2,720	930	1,190	1,500	1,205	1,125	1,120
	Unitary authorities							
908	Bath and N E Somerset	—	470	445	440	415	430	475
810	Bournemouth	445	365	335	435	440	410	440
909	Bristol	980	1,170	1,330	1,005	930	810	1,065
910	North Somerset	260	420	495	570	495	440	415
913	Plymouth	—	685	625	555	600	680	715
811	Poole	270	270	310	345	415	380	385
911	South Gloucestershire	420	485	545	585	655	730	705
819	Swindon	450	530	480	460	445	485	505
914	Torbay	290	280	325	350	345	370	365
	Eastern							
	Shire counties							
610	Bedfordshire	175	200	220	810	990	805	915
623	Cambridgeshire	965	960	980	965	1,030	1,070	1,135
620	Essex	2,605	2,905	3,120	3,165	—	3,270	3,360
606	Hertfordshire	2,435	2,620	2,705	2,770	2,490	2,475	2,450
607	Norfolk	1,685	1,905	1,790	2,015	1,265	2,130	2,175
609	Suffolk	195	235	1,175	1,255	1,420	1,475	1,405
	Unitary authorities							
611	Luton	215	265	275	315	365	385	370
624	Peterborough	335	365	495	500	435	410	400
621	Southend	350	370	440	500	460	440	500
622	Thurrock	235	300	280	290	270	285	275
	London							
	Inner London							
702	Camden	455	460	450	425	380	380	385
703	Greenwich	545	500	455	545	600	550	560
704	Hackney	415		425	415	505	515	530
705	Hammersmith and Fulham	255	245	255	295	280	290	300
706	Islington	310	405	410	435	445	435	440
707	Kensington and Chelsea	240	260	245	255	250	255	255

Number of clients whose primary client type is aged 18-64 with a learning disability receiving services during the period by year—England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded numbers

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1,2]	*2005-06*[1,2]	*2006-07*[1,2]
708	**Lambeth**	590	530	605	625	610	820	645
709	**Lewisham**	510	530	835	840	790	805	520
710	**Southwark**	485	515	610	715	600	745	730
711	**Tower Hamlets**	245	340	315	375	355	405	505
712	**Wandsworth**	640	575	805	820	690	730	1,050
713	**Westminster**	370	365	355	375	430	460	475
714	City of London	10	15	10	10	10	10	10
	Outer London							
716	**Barking and Dagenham**	215	260	285	290	355	365	275
717	**Barnet**	1,015	985	540	535	590	700	715
718	**Bexley**	685	575	700	695	465	435	455
719	**Brent**	600	875	560	640	485	520	725
720	**Bromley**	595	730	750	650	710	815	915
721	**Croydon**	815	550	1,010	1,060	1,055	1,075	1,080
722	**Ealing**	680	650	370	440	450	590	700
723	**Enfield**	495	480	500	535	580	595	610
724	**Haringey**	575	495	490	475	460	505	585
725	**Harrow**	290	380	415	455	455	450	470
726	**Havering**	350	335	380	430	435	460	460
727	**Hillingdon**	540	500	470	515	545	510	515
728	**Hounslow**	365	405	440	515	545	490	485
729	**Kingston-upon-Thames**	375	340	180	300	315	340	330
730	**Merton**	380	375	340	355	410	410	430
731	**Newham**	375	460	500	510	500	580	585
732	**Redbridge**	490	465	495	505	600	590	635
733	**Richmond upon Thames**	335	310	320	355	335	345	360
734	**Sutton**	290	320	410	420	425	385	460
735	**Waltham Forest**	565	455	350	370	425	460	490
	South-east							
	Shire counties							
612	**Buckinghamshire**	705	740	840	1,025	885	915	975
815	**East Sussex**	1,225	855	1,070	1,040	1,050	1,150	1,195
812	**Hampshire**	1,990	2.600	3,035	2,815	3,310	3,185	2,795
820	**Kent**	2,970	3,210	3,630	3,355	3,805	3,755	4,085
608	**Oxfordshire**	—	—	—	1,110	1,155	1,205	1,380
805	**Surrey**	—	—	4,155	—	—	3,070	2,635
807	**West Sussex**	260	215	310	1,815	1,160	1,265	1,370
	Unitary authorities							
614	**Bracknell Forest**	190	210	170	220	180	275	320
816	**Brighton and Hove**	510	605	575	605	635	625	635
803	**Isle of Wight**	410	350	390	450	545	365	515
821	**Medway Towns**	460	480	345	475	360	650	570
613	**Milton Keynes**	30	280	290	355	320	350	390
813	**Portsmouth**	375	405	450	450	480	430	450
616	**Reading**	285	350	360	435	365	380	340
617	**Slough**	255	300	275	280	300	330	315
814	**Southampton**	485	455	460	535	500	500	535
615	**West Berkshire**	300	305	290	300	340	365	360
618	**Windsor and Maidenhead**	210	260	315	350	350	425	315

Number of clients whose primary client type is aged 18-64 with a learning disability receiving services during the period by year—England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded numbers

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1,2]	*2005-06*[1,2]	*2006-07*[1,2]
619	Wokingham	395	320	380	360	385	410	415

'—' = Missing data

[1] Data include clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.

[2] Guidance was re-stated in 2004-05 figures previous from years are not comparable.

[3] Five or less (or less than 50 for national and regional totals).

Notes:

1. The England totals are estimates.
2. Figures may not add up because of rounding.
3. Regional and national totals may not be equal to the sum of the council level figures due to the use of estimates when the council did not fully complete the return.

Source:

RAP proforma P1

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Prostate Cancer

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the age-standardised mortality rates for prostate cancer in *(a)* spearhead primary care trusts and *(b)* England were in the latest period for which figures are available. [206400]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the age standardised mortality rates for prostate cancer in (a) spearhead primary care trusts and (b) England were in the latest period for which figures are available. (206400)

The spearhead group is defined in terms of local authorities. Spearhead primary care organisations (PCOs) are those which overlap geographically with any of the area defined by the spearhead local authorities. For most, the whole of the PCO area overlaps with the spearhead local authorities, but some only partially overlap.

The attached table presents age standardised rates and counts of prostate cancer deaths for males in England, and the spearhead group. Figures are also presented for each PCO overlapping with the spearhead group. All figures are for 2006 (the year latest available). An estimate of the per cent of the PCO population that is in the spearhead group (as at 2002) is also shown.

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1, 2] and counts of death where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death[3], England, spearhead group and primary care organisation, 2006[4, 5]

Area	*Rate*	*95% confidence interval*	*Number of deaths*	*Percentage of PCO population within the spearhead group*[6]
England	25	(24-25)	8,506	—
Spearhead Group	24	(23-25)	1,997	—
Spearhead PCOs				
Barking and Dagenham	20	(11-30)	18	100
Greenwich Teaching	21	(13-30)	24	100
Hammersmith and Fulham	15	(6-23)	11	100
Haringey Teaching	14	(6-22)	12	100
Islington	26	(14-38)	18	100
Lambeth	38	(26-50)	39	100
Lewisham	23	(14-33)	24	100
Newham	24	(14-35)	22	100
Southwark	9	(3-15)	10	100
Tower Hamlets	19	(9-29)	14	100
Bolton	22	(14-29)	34	100
Bury	35	(24-47)	36	100
Manchester	17	(11-22)	37	100
Oldham	26	(17-34)	33	100
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	27	(18-37)	34	100
Salford	16	(9-23)	22	100
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	20	(13-27)	35	100
Knowsley	29	(17-41)	23	100
Liverpool	31	(24-38)	76	100
Halton and St. Helens	21	(14-28)	36	100
Wirral	21	(15-27)	49	100
Barnsley	23	(15-31)	35	100
Doncaster	26	(19-33)	53	100
Rotherham	27	(19-35)	42	100

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1, 2] and counts of death where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death[3], England, spearhead group and primary care organisation, 2006[4, 5]

Area	*Rate*	*95% confidence interval*	*Number of deaths*	*Percentage of PCO population within the spearhead group*[6]
Gateshead	25	(16-33)	34	100
Newcastle	23	(16-30)	38	100
North Tyneside	28	(19-36)	41	100
South Tyneside	27	(17-36)	29	100
Sunderland Teaching	27	(19-35)	47	100
South Birmingham	22	(15-28)	45	100
Coventry Teaching	23	(16-29)	43	100
Sandwell	28	(20-35)	49	100
Walsall Teaching	27	(19-35)	46	100
Wolverhampton City	37	(28-46)	62	100
Bradford and Airedale	20	(14-25)	54	100
Wakefield District	29	(21-36)	57	100
Hartlepool	37	(21-53)	20	100
Middlesbrough	28	(16-39)	23	100
Redcar and Cleveland	28	(18-39)	27	100
North Tees	23	(14-31)	26	100
Warrington	25	(16-34)	30	100
Blackburn with Darwen	20	(10-30)	15	100
Blackpool	17	(10-25)	20	100
Hull	31	(22-40)	46	100
Leicester City	14	(8-19)	21	100
Nottingham City	23	(15-30)	35	100
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	22	(14-31)	26	100
Birmingham East and North	24	(18-30)	62	100
North East Lincolnshire	24	(15-33)	27	100
Stoke on Trent	25	(18-33)	41	97
City and Hackney Teaching	22	(12-32)	18	96
Tameside and Glossop	28	(19-36)	42	87
East Lancashire	23	(17-29)	55	86
County Durham	31	(25-37)	102	77
Northumberland	25	(19-31)	58	46
Cumbria	22	(18-27)	86	35
Central Lancashire	20	(15-26)	57	29
Warwickshire	28	(22-33)	102	23
Lincolnshire	27	(23-31)	161	13
South Staffordshire	26	(21-31)	103	13
Derbyshire County	21	(17-25)	110	10
Northamptonshire	22	(17-26)	90	8

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codeC61.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[6] Percentages based on PCO populations as at 2002.

Employment: Stafford

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many new jobs in each employment sector were created in Stafford constituency in the last year for which data are available. [206387]

Phil Hope: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of new jobs in each employment sector created in Stafford constituency for the last year for which data are available (206387).

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes, in numbers of jobs, from year to year.

The table attached provides estimates from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) of net change in the number of employee jobs in Stafford by sector between 2005 and 2006, the latest year for which data are available.

As with any survey, results from the ABI at a small geographical area are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Food: Prices

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what estimate the National Statistician has made of month by month increases in *(a)* food prices and *(b)* energy prices in each month since January 2007 compared with (i) the previous month and (ii) the same month a year earlier. [206687]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking what estimate I have made of month by month increases in *(a)* food prices and *(b)* energy prices in each month since January 2007 compared with (i) the previous month and (ii) the same month a year earlier. (206687)

Food and energy are included in both the consumer prices index (CPI) and the retail prices index (RPI). Month on month and 12 month changes for both food and energy in both indices can be found by accessing the 'Consumer Price Indices' option in the following link.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/TSDTimezone.asp

Following the link provided will take you to a secondary menu. Both the monthly and annual changes in the CPI/RPI can be selected from this menu. The required information can then be found by selecting the group titles given about the clicking on 'View Series'.

Personal Income

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the National Statistician has made of month by month increases in *(a)* wages, *(b)* consumer prices index and *(c)* retail price index for each month since January 2007 onwards compared with (i) the previous month and (ii) the same month a year earlier. [206686]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking what estimate has been made of month by month increases in a) wages, b) the consumer prices index (CPI) and c) the retail prices index (RPI) for each month since January 2007 onwards compared with i) the previous month and ii) the same month a year earlier. (206686)

The required information on wages can be found by using our Average Earnings Index. Tables 15 and 16 of the following link give comparisons with the same month a year earlier, while comparisons with the previous month are provided in the attached table

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsuk0508.pdf

The required information on the CPI and RPI can be found in tables 3.2 and 3.3 (CPI) and 4.2 and 4.3 (RPI) of the following link.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Focus_on_CPI_April_2008.pdf

	Percentage
2007	
January	0.3
February	1.1
March	-0.8
April	0.1
May	0.5
June	0.5
July	0.3
August	0.5
September	0.5
October	0
November	0.4
December	0.4
2008	
January	0.5
February	0.9
March	0.1

Population

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what the population of each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust area is. [206900]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding the population or each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust area. (206900)

The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006. The requested estimates are available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D9744.xls

Prostate Cancer

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the survival rate from prostate cancer in *(a)* spearhead primary care trusts and *(b)* England was in the latest period for which figures are available. [206399]

Phil Hope: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the survival rate from prostate cancer in (a) spearhead primary care trusts and (b) England was in the latest period for which figures are available. [206399]

The latest available relative survival rates in a) spearhead primary care trusts are for patients diagnosed in 1996-2001 and followed up to the end of 2003. The one-year survival rate was 88% and the five-year survival rate was 66%. These rates are available on the National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14821&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

The latest available relative survival rates in b) England are for patients diagnosed in 1999-2003 and followed up to the end of 2004. The one-year survival rate was 91% and the five-year survival rate was 74%. These rates are available on the National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14821&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Iraq: Children

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of children's healthcare services in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [205067]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 2003, DFID has continually monitored the state of Iraq's healthcare services including those for children. The Iraqi healthcare system already faced enormous challenges before the 2003 conflict. We recognise the serious need for improvements in child healthcare provision, including immunisation, potable water, food and nutrition and access for women and children to primary health care.

The Iraqi Government, supported by the international community, is seeking to address these issues. For example, a five-year health plan has been drafted with support from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and a maternal child strategy and family health plans to move to a primary health care model with an emphasis on prevention and away from the present hospital based care system. The UN, led by UNICEF, is supporting the Iraqi Government's efforts to improve nutrition rates in Iraq through a variety of programmes including infant feeding campaigns, immunisation and the provision of medical supplies.

Since 2003 the UK has contributed a total of £70 million to the UN and World Bank Trust funds, which together are spending a total of $180 million in the health care sector. We have also contributed £5 million to the WHO. We also support humanitarian agencies including the International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Food Programme who also provide emergency relief to the 2.7 million internally displaced persons living in Iraq, including to children and other vulnerable groups (orphans, elderly, single headed female households). This year we have committed £17 million of funding for humanitarian assistance programmes, including £3 million to UNICEF's emergency programme to provide assistance to Iraqi children.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Storms

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of China on its role in seeking a relaxation of the restrictions imposed by the Burmese government on the flow of international aid to those affected by Cyclone Nargis. [206599]

Meg Munn: We have been in close contact with many of the governments of the region in our efforts to persuade the Burmese authorities to allow unhindered access to all affected areas. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to Foreign Minister Yang recently and spoke to him on 13 May. Minister Yang agreed to convey our concerns to the Burmese.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to members of the Association of South East Asian Nations on their role in seeking a relaxation of the restrictions imposed by the Burmese government on the flow of international aid to those affected by Cyclone Nargis. [206600]

Meg Munn: The Burmese government's obstruction of the international aid effort is utterly unacceptable. A natural disaster is in real danger of becoming a man-made catastrophe. We have been in close contact with many of the governments of the region in our efforts to persuade the Burmese authorities to allow unhindered access for international aid to all affected areas.

Recently, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to his counterparts in Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia. He met the Foreign Minister of Malaysia in London on 12 May. Recently, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown has visited Thailand, Singapore and Burma where he pressed senior members of the regime to allow more aid into stricken areas in full co-operation with the international donor community. I called the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ambassadors to the Foreign Office on 14 May to express our concerns. I have also spoken to senior politicians in Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines, in addition to high level lobbying by our Missions around the region.

On 19 May, with Burmese agreement, ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to create a regional mechanism to facilitate the effective delivery of aid from the donor community to Burma. Our current effort is to secure a means to deliver aid on the back of a logistics chain we are asking ASEAN countries to establish.

Capital Punishment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the use of the death penalty with the governments of *(a)* China, *(b)* Iran, *(c)* Saudi Arabia, *(d)* Pakistan and *(e)* the USA. [204331]

Meg Munn: The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle and we are committed to working with all EU partners towards universal abolition.

In China, we welcome the Supreme People's Court's central review of death penalty cases since 1 January 2007 which has reportedly led to a reduction in executions, but continue to urge the Chinese government to make public statistics and to reduce the scope of the death penalty. We did this most recently at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue at the end of January. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also raised the death penalty with Chinese Premier Wen during his visit to China in January.

We are deeply concerned by the increasing use of the death penalty in Iran and its continued use for juvenile offenders and we regularly raise this with the Iranian authorities in bilateral meetings and through the EU. Most recently, in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador on 1 April, my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, called on Iran to limit its use of the death penalty and raised concerns about articles of Iran's draft penal code which would make apostasy punishable by death. We have supported several EU statements and demarches this year about the general use of the death penalty in Iran and individual death penalty cases.

My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East raised the issue of the death penalty during his visit to Saudi Arabia in February 2008.

The UK delegation to the UN Human Rights Council raised the issue of the death penalty with Pakistan as part of the Universal Periodic Review that Pakistan underwent on 8 May. The UK delegation urged the Government of Pakistan to review the use of the death penalty, with a view to a moratorium and abolition, in order to implement the UN General Assembly resolution adopted in December 2007 calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. The UK, with our EU partners, will continue to lobby the Government of Pakistan against the use of capital punishment.

Our officials in the US continue to monitor the use of the death penalty in the US and make representations bilaterally or with EU partners on specific cases where the circumstances warrant them. The EU last took action in the case of Lynd *v.* Georgia on 2 May 2008, sending a letter to the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles appealing for clemency.

China: Capital Punishment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Chinese government on the publication of statistics on its use of the death penalty. [206601]

Meg Munn: In March a Chinese court official reported that, since recovering the right of review over all death sentences, the Supreme People's Court had rejected 15 per cent. of original verdicts from lower-level courts. However, unless China is more transparent about the application of the death penalty, we cannot verify its claims that the number of executions has fallen. We continue to urge China to reduce the scope of death penalty crimes and to allow transparency of statistics. We did so most recently at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue at the end of January.

China: Tibet

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Chinese Government in advance of the Beijing Olympic Games on the attitude that government will take in dealing with peaceful protests by pro-Tibetan demonstrators. [205938]

Dr. Howells: We regularly urge the Chinese Government to protect the right of all individuals to peaceful expression of their views on all issues. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to Chinese Foreign Minister Yang on several occasions since the recent unrest in Tibet urging respect for human rights in Tibet, including the right to freedom of expression.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203845]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will publish a list, providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in the Department during the course of the previous financial year, before the summer recess.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire of 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1905-06W, on official residences, what the cost of *(a)* maintenance, *(b)* renovation, *(c)* council tax, *(d)* rent and *(e)* utilities for the Ministerial residence accommodation at 1 Carlton Gardens was in each year since 2004-05. [203032]

Meg Munn: Expenditure on council tax, maintenance and renovation for the residence at 1 Carlton Gardens is detailed as follows. Approximately 35 per cent. of the area of 1 Carlton Gardens is occupied by the residence. Expenditure on rent and utilities is not clearly identifiable and is represented as a percentage share of the total expenditure on 1 Carlton Gardens.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Maintenance	520	124,799	23,782
Renovation	0	0	0
Council tax	1,112	1,186	1,227
Rent	54,772	54,772	54,772
Utilities	[1]0	6,306	4,928

[1] Not applicable as the residence was unoccupied

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206216]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contracts, and the resultant expenditure specifically for public participation activities, are not categorised separately from that for external consultancy as a whole. The information the hon. Member requests could, therefore, be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, annual expenditure on external consultants or consultancies as a whole is published in the FCO's annual departmental reports, copies of which are available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/departmental-report/.

EC Presidency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* French, *(b)* Italian and *(c)* German counterparts on the candidates for the preferred post of President of the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [206298]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with all of our EU partners on a variety of issues. There is no position of "President of the EU", nor will any such position be created by the treaty of Lisbon.

Eritrea: Djibouti

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent Eritrean incursion into Djibouti. [206284]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the incursion by Eritrean forces into Djiboutian territory in April.

We call on both countries to enter into a bilateral dialogue to resolve peacefully any outstanding issues relating to this incursion and to avoid increasing tension in the region.

European Union: Public Relations

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1220W, on the European Union: public relations, whether the EU funds to which he referred are being disbursed to those both for and against European integration; how much has been disbursed *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in other EU member states; and to whom the funds have been disbursed. [204074]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As set out in my answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1220W, the purpose of Communicating Europe in Partnership is to improve the coherence, integration and effectiveness of the EU's communications efforts. The Government support the disbursal of EU funds towards this stated objective.

The Commission does not decide in advance how much money is available per member state or which beneficiaries will undertake the projects. Funding will be distributed following calls for proposals. A breakdown for all those activities will be available at the end of 2008 from the Commission.

Forced Labour: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage overseas governments not to force children to become soldiers. [206718]

Dr. Howells: The UK actively supports international efforts to protect children affected by armed conflict. As a member of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict we have contributed to action against parties that were violating child rights in states such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. Through the EU we have assisted in establishing EU guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict. Domestically, the UK has ratified the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has endorsed the Paris Commitments and the Paris Principles to protect children from the unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups.

The UK also supports and facilitates the work of international courts and tribunals which try alleged perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community including those against children.

India: Children

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Indian government on the use of child labour in textile and clothing manufacturing factories; and if he will make a statement. [205687]

Dr. Howells: The Government regularly raise our concerns over human rights issues with the Government of India and the Indian Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. These issues were discussed during the latest round of the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue in New Delhi on 15 February. Discussions covered India's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and optional protocols and ratification of International Labour Organisation Conventions 138 and 182 to abolish child labour.

Child rights remain a high priority in promoting equality and tackling discrimination in India. The Department for International Development has provided substantial support to assist schemes to ensure all children have the right to attend school. The UK will continue to work with the Government of India in supporting efforts to tackle human rights issues.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's assessment is of the Working Paper dated 25 April 2008 (NPT/conf.2010/PC.11/WP.4) submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on non-compliance with NPT Articles I, III, IV and VI, with particular reference to the statement that approval of the Trident replacement programme constitutes a contravention of NPT Article VI; and what response the Government has made to the paper. [206373]

Dr. Howells: The UK scrupulously complies with its obligations under the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), including those on disarmament in article VI. We are committed to strengthening the three pillars of the treaty. The decision to maintain our nuclear deterrent did not contravene the treaty. The UK made this clear at the 2008 NPT Preparatory Committee in its response to the Iranian paper.

Lebanon: Overseas Residence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to safeguard British nationals resident in Lebanon. [206581]

Dr. Howells: The safety of British nationals overseas is a high priority. The provision of consular support is one of our core services. Our embassy in Beirut maintains a civil contingency plan which focuses on the safety of British nationals in Lebanon. The plans are reviewed and updated regularly. At present, we do not anticipate having to set in motion an assisted evacuation. As a matter of course, we continue to monitor the situation and adjust our plans accordingly. One of our Rapid Deployment teams in London remains on standby to travel to Lebanon should the situation deteriorate. The travel advice pages on our website,

www.fco.gov.uk

have been regularly updated to reflect events. They offer guidance to British nationals in Lebanon whom, additionally, we are urging to register on-line with the embassy via LOCATE, a consular registration service.

Serbia: Kosovo

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the government of Serbia in relation to the Government's recognition of the independence of Kosovo. [204007]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Serbian government has made clear, both orally and in writing, their disagreement with the UK on recognition of Kosovo's independence.

Their representations have included an official demarche delivered by the Serbian charge d'Affaires on 19 February and several letters of protest.

Shares: Sales Methods

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to improve co-operation at bilateral level to tackle boiler room fraud operations targeting British people but based in other EU member states. [207277]

Meg Munn: The hon. Member is aware of the damage that can be done through boiler room fraud. The Government take the issue of investment scams, including that of boiler room fraud, very seriously. The Home Office, the Financial Services Authority (FSA), City of London Police and Consumer Direct all work hard to raise awareness of the problem and give advice on recognising and reporting boiler room fraud accordingly, as is evident from their websites.

To date, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had direct discussions on boiler room fraud with the countries mentioned. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office network abroad are engaged on all areas of serious and organised crime.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Serious Fraud Office and the FSA will continue to work successfully together through the newly created multi agency taskforce, Operation Archway, co-ordinated by the City of London Police to pool expertise and share national intelligence to fight against this crime.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 25 May to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea; and whether he has received reports that Mr. Mann is still being continuously shackled. [206288]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* Our consul from the British deputy high commission in Lagos was refused consular access to Simon Mann during his last visit to Equatorial Guinea in March. We have expressed our concern to the Equatorial Guinea authorities and are urgently seeking another consular visit. We have not been informed whether Mr. Mann is still being continuously shackled. His welfare remains our primary concern.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of contacts with Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea by any *(a)* diplomatic officials, *(b)* media staff and *(c)* other personnel independent of the Equatorial Guinea authorities since Mr. Mann's appearance on Channel 4 News; and if he will make a statement. [206289]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* We received reports from the Equatorial Guinea authorities that a media team was allowed access to Mr. Mann on one occasion in March. We have no information that any diplomatic officials or personnel independent of the Equatorial Guinea authorities have visited Mr. Mann.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of recent actions by rebel groups in Khartoum on the viability of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [206024]

Meg Munn: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement remains fully viable, and the parties are committed to its implementation. On 10 May Salva Kiir, the First Vice President of the Government of National Unity, President of South Sudan and the head of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, condemned the rebel actions in Khartoum.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Sudan in response to reports of arrests and detentions of Darfurians in Khartoum and Sudan's commitments under international law and the Interim National Constitution of Sudan. [206637]

Meg Munn: We have stressed to the government of Sudan that they should exercise restraint in their response to this attack; and that anyone arrested in connection with the attack should be given due legal process. We will raise any reported violations with the government through the EU-Sudan Dialogue on Human Rights.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the arrest and detention of Darfurians in Khartoum following the Justice and Equality Movement attack on the capital on 10th May. [206638]

Meg Munn: Following the Justice and Equality Movement attack on Omdurman, the Sudanese authorities have detained a number of Darfuris and non-Darfuris as part of the follow-up investigations. We understand that at least 170 people were arrested and 130 remain in detention. We are in close touch with the human rights division of the UN Mission in Sudan, which is monitoring these reports.

Vietnam: BBC External Services

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution made by the BBC World Service Vietnamese service in promoting democracy and human rights in Vietnam. [205419]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* The BBC Vietnamese Service was assessed as part of a periodical regional review of South East Asia in October 2006. The service scored highly for its valued, impartial, uncensored coverage of Vietnamese domestic issues. The content on the BBC's Vietnamese Service, both on radio and online, has included features on democracy and human rights.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2361W, on Western Sahara: human rights, whether the Minister of State has raised the human rights situation in Western Sahara in discussions with the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Fassi Fihri. [205779]

Dr. Howells: Foreign Minister Fassi Fihri and I discussed a range of issues relating to Morocco and Western Sahara in the UK-Morocco Ministerial Dialogue meeting of July 2007. On 22 April 2008,1 co-chaired the third round of the Dialogue with Deputy Foreign Minister Latifa Akherbach in Rabat, where we again discussed recent developments relating to Western Sahara. I reiterated the UK's support for the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, and stressed the need for both parties to work towards a negotiated settlement providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. I also encouraged greater transparency in the field of human rights in Western Sahara in order to foster greater confidence between the parties.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2325W, on Western Sahara: human rights, whether the ambassador has discussed the human rights situation in occupied Western Sahara with Moroccan government officials; and when members of the ambassador's staff last visited the occupied Western Sahara. [205780]

Dr. Howells: The UK is concerned about the humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict in Western Sahara. Our ambassador in Rabat discusses a range of issues relating to Western Sahara with Moroccan officials. The most recent high level discussions took place at the UK-Morocco Ministerial Dialogue Forum in Rabat on 22 April, where I discussed a range of issues, including human rights, with the Moroccan Deputy Foreign Minister, Latifa Akherbach.

Diplomatic staff at our embassy in Rabat visited Western Sahara in May 2006. I anticipate further such visits in the near future.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to co-ordinate a mission of international observers to be sent to Zimbabwe; and when a mission is expected to be in place. [204846]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* We are urging the Government of Zimbabwe to invite the widest range of international observers, including from the Southern African Development Community countries and the African Union, for any second round of the elections. Once they are deployed, we will press for all observer teams and missions to fully co-ordinate their efforts including with local observers on the ground.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure that Zimbabwe accepts the presence of international election observers in advance of any run-off to decide the result of the Presidential election. [204847]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* We are urging the Southern African Development Community and African Union leaders and others in the wider international community to join us in pressing the Government of Zimbabwe to allow the deployment of sufficient international observers well in advance of any second round of the presidential election. This is a necessary precondition for a free and fair second round election.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of President Mbeki's work on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to assist in resolving the situation after the presidential elections in Zimbabwe; and what discussions the Government has had with SADC members on this subject. [206026]

Meg Munn: We welcome the continued engagement of President Mbeki and other African leaders, both from within and outside the region, in efforts to resolve the electoral crisis in Zimbabwe. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, and our high commissions are in close and regular contact on this subject with the Southern African Development Community Heads of State and Foreign Ministers.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 2 June 2008

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Daresbury Laboratory: Skilled Workers

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made by the Science and Technology Facilities Council on implementing its policy to retain key skills at Daresbury laboratory; and if he will make a statement. [206311]

Ian Pearson: STFC is aiming to retain important skills at the Daresbury Science and Innovation campus to resource the range of scientific research investments being planned for its future. I have most recently announced a £25 million investment by St. Modwen, a private sector developer that will be investing in a new (Vanguard House) business incubator facility at Daresbury to accommodate the rapidly growing (over 65) science and technology-based companies at the site, and new start-up science and technology businesses emerging in part from Daresbury's own leading scientific research programme. STFC has also tabled proposals for a new computer science centre at Daresbury (Hartree) and, in conjunction with its sister campus at Harwell, a new detector systems centre. These proposed centres would add to the existing Cockcroft Institute for accelerator research and the contribution that Daresbury is making to the preparatory phase of the New Light Source project. Taken together, I believe that the portfolio of facilities and projects at Daresbury will continue to sustain and develop its leading edge skills—which are highly valued by me and my Department. We are fully committed to the development of the Daresbury Science and Innovation campus as announced in Budget 2006.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Bureaucracy

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on measures undertaken to date pursuant to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) pledge to reduce bureaucracy, as indicated on page nineteen of the current LSC Statement. [205317]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to reducing bureaucracy at all levels within further education to release providers' energy to focus on the needs of individuals and employers. Through its deregulation agenda the Department and its intermediaries have already for example:

reduced the number of intermediary bodies—Ofsted and the Adult Learning Inspectorate have been brought together in one inspector body, QIA and CEL are being brought together into a single body which will provide support to FE colleges and providers;

reduced the administrative burden on colleges and independent providers—there is now light touch inspection for the best performers, a reduction in audit requirements is saving about £12 million in administrative time per year and recognition as an awarding body has recently been reduced from an average of 10 months to two-three months;

introduced Impact Assessments of policies on front line delivery.

The LSC is committed to reducing bureaucracy. As a result of the restructuring begun in 2005-06 the LSC expect to realise annual administration savings of £40 million by the end of 2008-09. The LSC are also committed to making administration efficiency savings during the current spending review period of 5 per cent. year on year.

The LSC have made significant administration efficiency savings since it started operations in April 2001. Administration costs as a proportion of total expenditure has fallen from 4.6 per cent. in 2001-02 to an anticipated 1.6 per cent. in 2010-11.

I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Member with further information on action being taken. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 2 June 2008:

I am writing to you at the request of Bill Rammell in response to your recent question about the LSC pledge to reduce bureaucracy.

In our Statement of Priorities published in November 2007 we highlighted eight areas where we are committed to simplifying the education and training system for the benefit of learners and employers.

Funding methodology.

The LSC has implemented a reduction in the number of funding streams from six to three which will reduce administrative complexities for FE colleges and training providers and provide a clearer link between policy objectives and funding arrangements. It is expected that this will result in increased access and participation for 16-18 year-old learners and increased awareness of learning opportunities for adult learners.

Customer interaction with FE system

We are continuously looking for ways to improve this, for example we have just introduced a single Helpline, Assessment and Payment Body to improve the customer (learner) experience, by having a single point of reference, single portal, and single phone number for all interactions in relation to nationally administered financial support programmes for learners.

Single brokerage service

A common brokerage framework has been introduced to ensure consistency across LSC regions, and to improve the service to employers we plan to go further by transferring the skills brokerage service to regional development agencies (RDAs) to enable its integration with the Business Link service.

New Standard

This has now been launched as the Training Quality Standard. It recognises provider responsiveness to employer needs and provider excellence in a particular vocational area; two areas that employers have told us are critical for success. It will give employers a simple and straightforward way to compare training providers.

Framework for Excellence

This is a balanced scoreboard of performance indicators that will enable learners and employers to make more informed choices and decisions, thus contributing to improved levels of satisfaction, increased retention rates, greater investment by individuals and employers, a sharper focus on economically valuable skills, and better and more relevant outcomes. A large scale pilot has just been completed and version 1 of the Framework is scheduled for roll-out to all FE colleges and work-based learning providers from August 2008.

Regional skills strategies

The LSC no longer produces 47 local plans with a range of priorities and initiatives but rather brings these together into nine regional plans. These regional plans set out how the LSC's funding will be used to support national priorities as identified in our Grant Letter and Statement of Priorities, and regional priorities identified by regional development agencies.

Qualifications and Credit Framework

With the QCA we are developing a simple and flexible structure that allows achievement to be built incrementally through the accumulation and transfer of credit. This will encourage and enable more learning that is appropriate to individuals' and employers' needs, For 2008-09 the LSC will be encouraging providers to adopt QCF provision where it is available.

Simplification of business processes

The LSC continues to support the operation of the Bureaucracy Reduction Group (BRG) as the FE sector-led gatekeeper group for bureaucracy. The BRG has scrutinised the operation of a number of the LSC's major programmes and has helpfully identified areas where improvements could be made. For example, its recent scrutiny of Train to Gain resulted in a 10 point action plan to reduce bureaucracy in this programme. The report and recommendations of this scrutiny can be found on the BRG website

(www.fe-brg.org.uk).

In order to continue to tackle perceived bureaucracy and improve efficiency the LSC is developing a Simplification Plan. This will set out the actions the LSC is taking across a range of activities in addition to those highlighted above. It is expected that this will be published in July 2008 and I will send you a copy at that time.

Measurement: Wines

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on perceptions of alcohol consumption of the phasing out of 125 ml measure wine glasses in favour of 175 ml glasses. [206573]

Ian Pearson: Under existing legislation, both 125 ml and 175 ml measures may be used for the sale of wine by the glass. We have no evidence that the use of 125 ml glasses is being phased out. Alcohol policy as it relates to health is the responsibility of the Department of Health. It has launched a public education campaign to improve knowledge of the alcohol units contained in everyday drinks, and how drinking can affect people's health.

Physics: Research

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment has been made of the future effect of the recent reductions in funding for physics research and astronomy projects in the UK on the UK's industry and economy; and if he will make a statement. [207456]

Ian Pearson: Research Council expenditure on physics research is already in excess of £500 million per annum and is expected to increase over the CSR—comprehensive spending review—period.

The science budget is at its highest ever level and will enable the UK to maintain its leading position in research excellence, give rise to greater exploitation, as well as helping to build a stronger economy.

Research: EC Action

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what progress has been made in the UK towards meeting the Lisbon agenda target that the EU should invest three per cent. of its gross domestic product in research and development by 2010; and if he will make a statement; [207370]

(2) progress has been made towards the Government's target to invest 2.5 per cent. of the UK's gross domestic product in research and development by 2014; and if he will make a statement; [207371]

(3) what assessment he has made of the Lisbon agenda target that the EU as a whole should be investing three per cent. of its gross domestic product in research and development by 2010; for what reasons the Government set a target of 2.5 per cent. by 2014; and if he will make a statement. [207372]

Ian Pearson: The 3 per cent. Lisbon target applies to the EU as a whole, not to individual member states. Individual member states need to set targets in relation to their own circumstances. The Government felt that the UK target, set out in the 10-year Science and Innovation Investment Framework in 2004, was an appropriate and challenging target given the level of UK's research and development and the structure of the UK economy. In 2006 the UK spent 1.75 per cent. of gross domestic product on research and development, up from 1.74 per cent. in 2005. As a whole the EU27 spent 1.84 per cent. of gross domestic product on research and development in 2006, the same as in 2005.

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment has been made of the effect of the £80 million shortfall in the annual Science and Technology Facilities Council fund announced in December 2007; what steps have been taken by his Department to address the shortfall; and if he will make a statement. [207369]

Ian Pearson: We have made no such announcement The STFC's budget will rise by 13.6 per cent. by the end of the CSR period making it the third largest Research Council by budget This amounts to an additional £185 million over that period and a budget in total of £1.9 billion over the same period.

Students

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* overall developments in trans-European student mobility, *(b)* the European Credit Transfer System, *(c)* the Europass CV, *(d)* the Europass Mobility, *(e)* the Europass Diploma Supplement, *(f)* the Europass Certificate Supplement and *(g)* the Europass Language portfolio. [204588]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Government are keen to see an increase in the numbers of British students who take the opportunity to include a period of study abroad as part of their

course. Within Europe, we have seen a welcome increase this year in the number of UK students taking part in the EU's Erasmus programme. Interim figures for 2007-08 show that well over 10,000 UK students have taken part (including some 2,800 work placement students). And the UK continues to be one of the top destinations for students from other European countries taking part in the programme.

(b) The Government believe there is scope for further adaptation of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) to ensure that it effectively reflects the greater importance of the assessment of learning outcomes. In response to these and other member states' concerns, the European Commission is reviewing the ECTS users' guide, which is expected to be completed later this year.

Items *(c)* to *(g)* refer to the five documents that make up the Europass portfolio, a method introduced by the EU to record formal, informal and non-formal education. The operating agency for Europass in the UK, the National Europass Centre, has been promoting the portfolio in its entirety through organisations such as universities, FE colleges, vocational training organisations and UK accreditation bodies. There is increased interest in the use of Europass and it is expected that the introduction of the European Qualifications Framework will lead to greater take up of Europass documents in the future. The Government believe that Europass will assist in the recognition across Europe of formally or informally acquired skills and encourage mobility within the work force.

Students: Debts

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of what will be the average personal debt per student at the end of a degree course; and if he will make a statement. [196904]

Bill Rammell: We expect students who entered higher education in the 2006-07 and 2007-8 academic years to graduate with an average level of debt of around £15,000.

Student loans have very different features to most commercial loans, Graduates only repay once they are in work and only when their annual income reaches £15,000. Interest is charged at the rate of inflation, so students only pay back in real terms the amount they originally borrowed.

In July we announced plans to introduce greater flexibility in the repayment of student loans by allowing borrowers to take repayment breaks of up to five years.

A generous package of support is available to students, particularly those from low income households. In 2006-07 over half of eligible full-time students received a full or partial maintenance grant of up to £2,700, From 2008-09 onwards, the minimum threshold (of household income) for a full maintenance grant of up to £2,835 per year will be extended from £17,500 a year to £25,000 a year; with a partial grant available up to an income threshold of £60,005. This will mean that two thirds of all eligible students in England entering higher education in the academic year 2008-09 are expected to be entitled to a full or partial non-repayable grant—compared to just over half now.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many applicants there were for teacher training in secondary school *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* ICT and *(d)* modern languages in each of the last three years; and how many and what proportion of applicants for such courses in 2009 have been successful. [201399]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The number of applicants to secondary initial teacher training (ITT) is not collected centrally. The number of applications made to mainstream postgraduate ITT is collected; however the number of applications to undergraduate ITT courses is not available. The number of applications for employment based ITT is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of applications to postgraduate secondary ITT courses in England for *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* ICT and *(d)* modern languages in each of the last three years for which complete data are available.

	Number of applications		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Mathematics	3,250	2,840	2,590
Physics	520	490	450
ICT	1,620	1,440	1,120
Modern Languages	2,220	2,060	1,760

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2 Some applications for postgraduate ITT courses are made independently of the Graduate Teacher Training Registry and are not included in the figures.
3. Figures include trainees to secondary courses and do not include trainees to middle year's courses.
4. Data are as at the end of the application process so are subject to change.
5. Membership to the GTTR changes between years, therefore the higher education institutes covered may vary.
6. Modern languages include French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian and other modern languages.
Source:
Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR).

The figures are published on the GTTR website at:

http://www.gttr.ac.uk/stats.html.

Finalised data relating to the number of applications and the proportion which have been accepted on courses in 2009 are not available until February 2010,

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Coordination

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which Departments have established *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants to liaise with the Government Equalities Office. [201428]

Barbara Follett: None of the other Government Departments have established ministerial committees or permanent groups specifically in order to liaise with the Government Equalities Office (GEO), although

GEO is a member of a number of cross-departmental groups. The GEO has also set up a number of groups, such as the Equality PSA Delivery Board in order to liaise with other Departments.

Local Government: Disabled

Dr. Francis: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people with disabilities were employed by each local authority in each of the last three years, broken down by disability; and what proportion of employees that represents in each case. [207210]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of people employed by each local authority who have a disability is not held centrally.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many sessions of Ask the PM he plans to hold in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [207547]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time officials will be working on the Ask the PM blog; and if he will make a statement; [207548]

(3) how much he expects the Ask the PM blog to cost in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [207549]

The Prime Minister: As I set out, this will be a regular event. There are no additional staff and all costs will be met from within the existing budgets.

WALES

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208090]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department issued guidance to all staff in June 2006 to switch off their personal computers and networked printers when not in use.

Reminders are sent to all staff periodically.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1347W, on the departmental internet, how much bandwidth per month his Department purchases; how much of this is burst bandwidth; what the maximum burstable rate is; what resiliency has been purchased; how many servers host the website; and what backup solution is in place. [207633]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office departmental internet uses 1 megabit per second, none of which is burst, although the maximum burstable rate is 2 megabits per second. No resiliency has been purchased, but the company who hosts the website has a complete backup. The website is hosted on one server.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208149]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department does not have any catering facilities in house, and therefore does not routinely generate food waste.

SCOTLAND

Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208089]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system.

The Executive is shortly to introduce a new energy saving initiative that automatically shuts down computers which are not in use. The 'Nightwatchman', as the new software is known, will be installed on all computers across the network throughout the next month or so. This software will help to save energy and reduce carbon emissions by ensuring computers are shutdown when not in use.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in his Department in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207478]

David Cairns: Staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive (SE) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) who each have bonus schemes, part of which relate to annual performance appraisal. The Scotland Office does not hold information on bonus payments under the annual performance appraisal systems. Under the Special Bonus Scheme of the SE and the Reward and Recognition Scheme of the MoJ, the Office may also directly authorise bonus payments for special effort, achievement and commitment; the following table shows the number and cost of such non-pensionable bonuses:

	FY 2007-08
Total number of bonuses	6
Total cost of bonuses (£)	2,150

Members of the Senior Civil Service in the Scotland Office are also seconded from the Scottish Executive and the Ministry of Justice, their bonuses are assessed under a framework set by the Cabinet Office. The Office does not hold central information on such bonuses.

Planning: Wind Power

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1638W, on planning: wind power, what account he takes of the effects of planning advice in Scotland in formulating planning guidance for England on the siting of wind turbines; and if he will make a statement. [207722]

David Cairns: The formulation of planning advice for England is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

British National Party: Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps were taken against the British National party for its late declaration of donations, fundraising abroad, the destruction of financial records and other irregularities referred to in the BBC Radio 4 programme File on Four in February 2008. [206597]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has taken enforcement action against the British National party on three occasions, fining the party a total of £1,750 for late submission of accounts and campaign expenditure reports. The individual civil penalties are listed as follows:

31 August 2007: Fined £1,000 for late submission of party's 2006 Statement of Accounts;

24 October 2007: Fined £250 for late submission of Accounting Unit 2006 Statement of Accounts; and

21 December 2007: Fined £500 for late submission of Scottish Parliamentary campaign expenditure return

In addition, on two occasions, the BNP has submitted quarterly returns of donations late. Its quarter 1 2003 return was late by one day and its quarter 3 2006 return was two weeks late. However, the Commission did not begin imposing fines on political parties for late submission of donation returns until quarter 1 2007.

In relation to allegations of fundraising abroad, the Commission has made inquiries into this issue and was not satisfied that there was sufficient evidence to establish that the British National Party had accepted impermissible donations.

Regarding the alleged destruction of financial records and other irregularities referred to in the BBC Radio 4 programme File on Four, the Electoral Commission reviewed a small number of shredded papers but was not able to establish that they provided evidence of a possible offence under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Political Parties: Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission (1) what donations were notified to the Commission *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each year for which figures are available; who the donor was in each case; on what date each donation was (i) received and (ii) notified; and what steps were taken in each case of late notification; [206594]

(2) what donations were notified to the Commission *(a)* late and *(b)* on time where the donation was found to be impermissible in each year for which figures are available; who the (i) donor and (ii) donee was in each case; and on what date (A) the donation was received and (B) the Commission was notified in each case; [206595]

(3) what donations were notified to the Commission *(a)* late and *(b)* on time by each political party in each year for which figures are available; and what steps were taken against each political party for late notification in each case. [206596]

Peter Viggers: I am advised that the answers to the hon. Member's questions are voluminous. I will therefore write to the hon. Member, have a copy of my letters placed in the Library, and ask the Electoral Commission to place a copy of the letters on their website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) her Department and (ii) the agencies for which she is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206805]

Mr. Dhanda: There are no apprenticeships or advanced apprenticeships within my Department. However, we will be participating in the Apprenticeship Pathfinder in September 2008 which is being facilitated by Government Skills. The Fire Service College had one apprenticeship during 2005 which resulted in the person being taken on as a permanent member of staff. None of my other agencies or the Government office network have had apprenticeships or advanced apprenticeships.

Community Relations

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Community Empowerment White Paper will be published before the summer recess; and what the timetable is for subsequent legislation. [207563]

Mr. Dhanda: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 5 March that she would publish a White Paper on empowerment in the summer. On 14 May the Prime Minister announced that the Government intend to introduce a Bill on community empowerment, housing and economic regeneration in the fourth session.

Conference Centres: Harrogate

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will hold discussions with representatives of the Harrogate International Centre on provision of funding to the centre by her Department and the Yorkshire Regional Development Agency. [207803]

Mr. Dhanda: Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency is currently in discussions with the Harrogate International Centre, at a senior level, about the possibility of investment in its refurbishment and awaits the outcome of a feasibility study expected later this year.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2254W, on council tax: parish councils, and with reference to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1169W, for what reasons her Department is not able to calculate the average parish council tax precept; [203087]

(2) what the average parish precept on Band D council tax was in England in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98, averaged across parish areas only; [203062]

(3) if she will publish the methodology by which her Department has previously calculated the average Band D council tax parish precept in parished areas. [203038]

John Healey: Information on precepts and band D council taxes set by individual parish and town councils is not collected by the Department. The only information on parish precepts reported to the Department by local authorities is the total amount of parish precepts due to be collected by each billing authority. For this reason, a precise average cannot be calculated.

Recent estimates are available in Local Government Financial Statistics England at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/

No estimate is available for 1997-98.

Council Tax: Valuation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes were revalued for the purposes of council tax at the point of sale in each region in each year since 1997; [206052]

(2) how many homes revalued at the point of sale for the purposes of council tax were *(a)* revalued to (i) a higher band and (ii) a lower band and *(b)* the same council tax band in each region of the UK in each year since 1997. [206053]

John Healey: Regulation 4 of the Council Tax (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) Regulations 1993 requires that a banding is reviewed following improvements (a "material increase") at the point of sale (a "relevant transaction"). The number of such reviews, broken down by region and whether they resulted in *(a)* a higher band or *(c)* no change, were:

Financial year	*Region*	*(a) Higher band*	*(c) No change*
1997-98	East Midlands	539	2,889
1997-98	East of England	1,008	4,273
1997-98	London	545	2,229
1997-98	North East	322	1,601
1997-98	North West	626	3,557
1997-98	South East	1,511	6,617
1997-98	South West	900	3,688
1997-98	West Midlands	513	2,737
1997-98	Yorkshire and The Humber	358	1,609
1998-99	East Midlands	450	2,530
1998-99	East of England	896	3,634
1998-99	London	481	2,660
1998-99	North East	267	1,490
1998-99	North West	590	3,044
1998-99	South East	1,351	6,400
1998-99	South West	796	3,400
1998-99	West Midlands	446	2,264
1998-99	Yorkshire and The Humber	419	2,889
1999-2000	East Midlands	491	2,742
1999-2000	East of England	916	3,900
1999-2000	London	566	2,604
1999-2000	North East	285	1,379
1999-2000	North West	735	4,754
1999-2000	South East	1,284	6,154
1999-2000	South West	754	3,341
1999-00	West Midlands	611	2,919

Financial year	*Region*	*(a) Higher band*	*(c) No change*
1999-00	Yorkshire and The Humber	362	1,747
2000-01	East Midlands	414	2,257
2000-01	East of England	1,071	4,373
2000-01	London	735	3,364
2000-01	North East	254	1,286
2000-01	North West	596	3,120
2000-01	South East	1,548	6,746
2000-01	South West	818	3,883
2000-01	West Midlands	558	2,945
2000-01	Yorkshire and The Humber	391	1,825
2001-02	East Midlands	463	2,421
2001-02	East of England	1,167	4,652
2001-02	London	832	3,881
2001-02	North East	228	1,137
2001-02	North West	698	3,455
2001-02	South East	1,718	7,372
2001-02	South West	901	4,170
2001-02	West Midlands	505	2,666
2001-02	Yorkshire and The Humber	403	2,200
2002-03	East Midlands	585	4,183
2002-03	East of England	1,173	4,529
2002-03	London	914	4,110
2002-03	North East	231	1,258
2002-03	North West	741	4,229
2002-03	South East	1,620	6,669
2002-03	South West	871	3,536
2002-03	West Midlands	558	3,032
2002-03	Yorkshire and The Humber	434	2,305
2003-04	East Midlands	644	4,019
2003-04	East of England	1,165	4,325
2003-04	London	1,092	5,375
2003-04	North East	258	1,466
2003-04	North West	689	4,056
2003-04	South East	1,826	7,039
2003-04	South West	836	3,565
2003-04	West Midlands	676	3,287
2003-04	Yorkshire and The Humber	556	3,133
2004-05	East Midlands	548	4,064
2004-05	East of England	1,348	4,693
2004-05	London	934	3,127
2004-05	North East	259	1,427
2004-05	North West	596	3,372
2004-05	South East	1,572	6,567
2004-05	South West	923	4,566
2004-05	West Midlands	596	3,056
2004-05	Yorkshire and The Humber	549	2,822
2005-06	East Midlands	494	3,172
2005-06	East of England	969	3,456
2005-06	London	860	2,745
2005-06	North East	244	1,068
2005-06	North West	433	2,785
2005-06	South East	1,685	6,451
2005-06	South West	836	3,821
2005-06	West Midlands	555	3,057
2005-06	Yorkshire and The Humber	540	2,925

Financial year	*Region*	*(a) Higher band*	*(c) No change*
2006-07	East Midlands	371	2,224
2006-07	East of England	966	2,843
2006-07	London	672	2,064
2006-07	North East	203	1,045
2006-07	North West	441	2,276
2006-07	South East	1,583	5,048
2006-07	South West	888	4,828
2006-07	West Midlands	454	2,055
2006-07	Yorkshire and The Humber	462	1,863
2007-08	East Midlands	185	1,193
2007-08	East of England	563	1,788
2007-08	London	764	2,414
2007-08	North East	131	615
2007-08	North West	274	1,457
2007-08	South East	986	3,149
2007-08	South West	474	1,305
2007-08	West Midlands	254	1,365
2007-08	Yorkshire and The Humber	207	804

Reviews resulting in *(b)* a lower band could apply at any time and are not linked to a "point of sale".

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have commissioned on council tax revaluation in the last 12 months from (i) within her Department and its agencies and (ii) external bodies. [207562]

John Healey: None.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207468]

Mr. Dhanda: The numbers of bonuses paid to all staff and the cost of these in the 2007-08 financial year are given in the following table:

	Number of bonuses	*Cost of bonuses (£)*
Senior civil servants (SCS)	104	686,000
All staff below SCS	391	332,350
Total	495	1,018,350

In Communities and Local Government, bonus payments are made to those members of staff who are found to have made a significant contribution towards the achievement of the teams, and/or Department's objectives. Individuals are expected to show that they have exceeded the requirements set for the achievement of the objective and have demonstrated exemplary behaviour in doing so. Our senior civil service staff members are also assessed against a range of factors, such as:

The achievement of their Prime Objective which focuses on the way in which they lead, manage and develop their staff;

Degree to which business objectives are met;

Delivery for Ministers;

Demonstration of skills such as judgement, leadership and the PSG skills;

Effective resource management

Details of bonuses paid in the Department's agencies is not held centrally.

Departmental Procurement

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1685W, on departmental procurement, when the purchase order department became operational; and whether the database covers expenditure by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [207599]

Mr. Dhanda: All purchase orders raised by the Department and its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister which was formed in May 2002, are recorded on the Department's financial system.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1685W, on departmental procurement, what the financial trigger for a purchase order being required for expenditure is. [207600]

Mr. Dhanda: All purchase orders require prior financial approval from a budget holder.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for her Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company.[1] [200017]

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[1] *[Official Report, 9 July 2008, Vol. 478, c. 9MC.]*

Hazel Blears: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 681W.

Between then and the end of the financial year, the Department has undertaken the following work from polling companies.

Andrew Irving Associates Ltd.

Quantitative survey on the Code for Sustainable Homes

Pre and post tracking research on the effectiveness of the 'Pull your Finger out' fire safety campaign

Fire Safety Research into the Holiday Accommodation Sector

COI

Fire fighting careers research and recommendations

Fire Kills Literature Review

Fire Kills campaign recognition omnibus survey

Workshops on the importance of the English language to building communities

Survey of planning professionals about whether Planning Portal services met their needs

Cragg Ross Dawson Ltd.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive research

Dorset County Council

Housing related research

GFK NOP Ltd.

HIPs consumer awareness, qualitative, and omnibus research

Accountability of local council services—omnibus survey

TH Seagrove

Telephone survey of tenant activists on their awareness etc. of landlords work in terms of the Respect agenda.

IPSOS Mori

Third tranche of 2007 employee survey and the production of aggregated results from the full 2007 employee survey

Senior Civil Service survey

Employee engagement workshops

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultants have been contracted by her Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure her Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206213]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much she has allocated to disability facility grants for each of the *(a)* last and *(b)* next five years; what estimate she has made of the average local authority contribution to such grants over the same periods; and what estimate she has made of the overall cost to the public purse of disability facility grants over the same periods; [207459]

(2) what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the removal of the obligation on local authorities to contribute 40 per cent. of disability facility grant awards on the *(a)* level and *(b)* effectiveness of such awards; and if she will make a statement. [207460]

Mr. Dhanda: The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people. Local authorities in England report to the Department their annual DFG expenditure through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix. The 2006-07 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix report is the latest available data and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/357553/hssa200607/

Communities and Local Government do not hold information on how much local authorities plan to spend on DFG in the next five years.

The following table details funding for the past five years and Communities and Local Government funding for the current Comprehensive Spending Review period.

£

DFG	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Government contribution	99,000	99,572	111,294	120,723	138,250	146,081	156,000	166,000
Total including LA contribution	194,890	210,922	221,289	232,828	259,389	274,356	n/a	n/a

Note:
2007-08 and 2008-09 are estimated returns provided by the 2006-07 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix.

Prior to 2008-09 Communities and Local Government contributed 60 per cent. of the value of the DFG to local authorities up to an agreed allocation with the local authority funding the remaining 40 per cent. Many local authorities have been spending considerably more than the 40 per cent. match funding element of the DFG on providing adaptations. The mandatory nature of the DFG remains in place with the legal responsibility for delivering the scheme resting with local authorities. It is therefore expected that the removal of the 60:40 split will have no impact on the level of local authority investment.

Relaxing the ring fence will enable local authorities to bring together different funding streams, allowing greater flexibility and freedom in administering the programme. It will also empower local authorities to design services which fit with local delivery arrangements and the needs of individuals. Local authorities will, for example, be able to use DFG funding to cover the costs of moving home, where this is a more appropriate solution to adaptation.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to review the granting of funds under the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund to the New Kadampa Tradition; and if she will make a statement. [207497]

Mr. Dhanda: The Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund covered the period August 2006 to March 2008. The fund has now finished and all monies have been distributed. The Government will not be reviewing the allocation of funding.

Fire Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what date the new networked fire control rooms provided by EADS will be in operational use; [207524]

(2) what liability fire and rescue authorities will have for the costs of each regional control centre (RCC) company *(a)* before and *(b)* after each RCC becomes operational; [207528]

(3) if she will publish the FiReControl project timetable for each *(a)* Government Office region and *(b)* fire authority; and on what anticipated dates fire and rescue authorities will become responsible for the operating costs of each regional control centre. [207529]

Mr. Dhanda: A Regional Control Centre (RCC) becomes operational when the first Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) transfer calls to that RCC. Within a region, FRAs will then cut-over sequentially. The programme is detailed in the following table. All FRAs should have transferred its calls to the RCC network by September 2011.

Prior to cut-over, CLG will meet the running costs. As each FRA cuts over it will meet its share of the costs of running the RCC. How costs are apportioned between FRAs within a region is a matter for each region to decide.

Fire and Rescue Authority	*Control room functions cut-over*
East Midlands	
Derbyshire	October 2009
Leicestershire	January 2010
Nottinghamshire	March 2010
Lincolnshire	May 2010
Northamptonshire	July 2010
North East	
Durham and Darlington	January 2010
Tyne and Wear	October 2009
Cleveland	March 2010
Northumberland	March 2010
South West	
Somerset	October 2009
Devon	January 2010
Dorset	March 2010
Avon	May 2010
Cornwall	July 2010
Wiltshire	September 2010
Gloucestershire	January 2011
West Midlands	
Staffordshire	January 2010
West Midlands	March 2010
Shropshire	May 2010
Hereford and Worcester	September 2010
Warwickshire	July 2010
South East	
Hampshire	May 2010
Royal Berkshire	September 2010
Oxfordshire	January 2011
Kent	March 2011
East Sussex	May 2011
Buckinghamshire	Jul 2011
Isle of Wight	September 2011
Surrey	September 2011
West Sussex	July 2010
North West	
Cumbria	March 2011
Cheshire	March 2011
Lancashire	March 2011
Greater Manchester	September 2010
Merseyside	January 2011
Yorkshire and Humberside	
West Yorkshire	January 2011
South Yorkshire	March 2011
Humberside	May 2011
North Yorkshire	May 2011
East of England	
Essex	July 2011
Norfolk	September 2011
Cambridge and Peterborough	May 2011
Hertfordshire	September 2011
Bedfordshire and Luton	July 2011
Suffolk	July 2011
London	
London	November 2010

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what effect she estimates the FiReControl project will have on the council tax precept on individual fire and rescue authorities over the next three years; [207525]

(2) what funding has been set aside by her Department to finance any new burden costs associated with the implementation of regional control centres; [207527]

(3) what liability or financial burden fire and rescue authorities will bear for any cost overruns in delivery of the FiReControl project; [207532]

(4) what changes will be made to the funding of fire and rescue authorities as a consequence of the FiReControl project. [207533]

Mr. Dhanda: The FiReControl Project should have no impact on council tax precepts for Fire and Rescue Authorities. In line with the Government's commitment on new burdens, a specific grant of £92,200,000 has been allocated to cover the net additional cost to Fire and Rescue Authorities of the FiReControl Project over the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. Any cost overruns in the delivery of the project will be met by Communities and Local Government.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the cost of ensuring that planned accommodation moves as part of the FiReControl project comply with critical national infrastructure requirements. [207530]

Mr. Dhanda: The new FiReControl network will be part of the Critical National Infrastructure (CNI). This includes buildings, facilities management arrangements, IT and people. This has always been a requirement of the project and no separate assessment has been made of the cost of meeting requirements for individual components.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the FiReControl business case will next be updated. [207531]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson), on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1631W.

Fire Services: Mentally Ill

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire fighters were diagnosed with mental health problems in each year since 1997. [208066]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of firefighters diagnosed with mental health problems is not held centrally. Available information is for ill-health retirements on grounds of mental health, from 2001-02, and is set out in the following table. Figures for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are for all Fire and Rescue Service staff and relate to ill-health retirements on psychological grounds.

Ill-health retirements in England on psychological[1] and mental health[2] grounds

All staff	
1999-2000	134
2000-01	137
Firefighters	
2001-02	140
2002-03	127
2003-04	114
2004-05	79
2005-06	53
2006-07	27

Notes:
1. 1999-2000 and 2000-01. Figures relate to all staff, separate figures for firefighters are not available.
2. 2001-02 to 2006-07.

Floods: Planning

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider introducing changes to planning regulations and guidance to tackle levels of flood risk in the East Thames corridor; and if she will make a statement. [206038]

John Healey: Sir Michael Pitt's interim conclusion from his inquiry into the lessons learned from the floods last summer, is that the new Planning Policy Statement 25 'Development and Flood Risk' (PPS25) is sound but should be rigorously applied by local authorities. Work on achieving this is already well in hand. The Practice Guide to PPS25, which will provide practical advice to local authorities on implementing the policy, is due to be published shortly.

Green Belt: East of England

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes or reviews of Green Belt designation the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy proposes; and in which locations. [207564]

Mr. Dhanda: The East of England Plan proposes green belt reviews to provide for essential housing and business growth focussed on the new towns to the north of London. The reviews will take place at Harlow, Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage and Welwyn/Hatfield. The East of England Plan will, however, result in a net increase in green belt since it also proposes compensating green belt extensions north of Harlow and west of Stevenage.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when registered social landlords will be required to build to *(a)* Level 4, *(b)* Level 5 and *(c)* Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [207445]

Mr. Dhanda: The Housing Corporation set out in their Design and Quality Strategy that new build schemes funded through their National Affordable Housing Programme for the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 would meet level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. They have committed to increasing the minimum requirement to Code level 4 for their next programme starting in 2011-12, with a view to achieving Code level 6 by 2015, if the technology needed to achieve this cost effectively is available.

Improvement and Development Agency: Freedom of Information

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Improvement and Development Agency is subject to the provisions of *(a)* the Environmental Information Regulations and *(b)* the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [207526]

Mr. Dhanda: The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) is not subject to the provisions of either the Environmental Information Regulations or the Freedom of Information Act (FoI), but they comply with requests made under the legislation as if they were.

Local Government

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether joint committees created between local authorities under sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 may *(a)* impose stipulations on the use of whole council elections in each partner local authority, *(b)* impose stipulations on the number of councillors per ward in each partner local authority and *(c)* place additional statutory obligations on the elected members of each partner local authority. [206811]

John Healey: Such joint committees cannot impose stipulations on the use of whole council elections or on the number of councillors per ward in each partner local authority: nor can they place additional statutory obligations on the elected members of each partner local authority.

Local Government Finance: Recreation Spaces

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department is providing to local authorities for *(a)* improvements to park facilities and *(b)* floodlighting and artificial sports pitches in parks in 2008-09. [207070]

Mr. Dhanda: Local authority expenditure on these facilities can be funded from unhypothecated grant, council taxes or fees and charges.

In addition, the funding we are providing for the Thames Gateway provides support for a range of public realm projects, often through local authorities, which may include park facilities, floodlighting and artificial sports pitches in parks. This includes £35 million to the Thames Gateway Parklands programme, to celebrate and enhance the gateway's character and some of this funding may be allocated to local authorities to provide such facilities. Decisions on the allocation of funding under this programme to particular projects have yet to be taken.

Local Government: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the negotiations on the multi-area agreement for Greater Manchester will address *(a)* the number of councillors per ward, *(b)* additional statutory obligations on the elected members of and *(c)* the use of whole council elections in each local authority in Greater Manchester. [206747]

John Healey: The Greater Manchester authorities have not proposed, as part of the Multi Area Agreement they are negotiating with Government, any changes to the number of councillors per ward, additional statutory obligations on the elected members of and the use of whole council elections in each local authority in Greater Manchester.

Parking: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the number of parking spaces within the curtilage of a retail development is taken into account by the Valuation Office Agency and contributes as a value significant or site positive feature towards its rateable value. [207565]

John Healey: The presence and number of car parking spaces within the curtilage of a retail development is a factor likely to contribute to its rental value, and—to the extent that it does—therefore to be taken into account in arriving at rateable value.

Planning: Dorset

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had on planning issues with landowners in *(a)* Lytchett Minster and *(b)* Lytchett Maltravers in Mid Dorset and North Poole constituency in the last 12 months. [207847]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not held any discussions on planning issues with landowners in Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers in the last 12 months.

Playgrounds: Vandalism

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public playgrounds have been closed due to vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the last four years; and what steps her Department is taking to address this matter. [204943]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of public playgrounds that have been closed in the past four years due to vandalism and antisocial behaviour is not held centrally.

There are a range of measures available to local agencies to deal with antisocial behaviour committed in and around playgrounds or any other public place. Antisocial behaviour tools and powers are normally used in an incremental way and should always be used in a way that is proportionate to the behaviour committed. Warnings, acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs), dispersal orders, parenting contracts and orders are normally used to tackle low-level antisocial behaviour. For more serious cases of antisocial behaviour, antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) may be used.

Post Offices: Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many post offices were recorded on the Valuation Office Agency's ratings list in England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [203039]

John Healey: The number of properties with a description of 'post office and premises' appearing in the rating lists for England as at 31 March 2008 was 3,211. This does not include many post office facilities in premises primarily used for other purposes, such as shops.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which city academies in each region are most energy efficient. [206190]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information.

Academies: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Peter Clarke played a role in the process by which the Ridings School in Halifax was considered for academy status; whether Peter Clarke is employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [206210]

Jim Knight: The Ridings School has not been considered for academy status. A decision to close The Ridings School was made by Calderdale Council on 29 October 2007. I can confirm that Peter Clark is employed by the Department of Children, Schools and Families as a Senior Education Adviser.

Advanced Extension Awards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the future of advanced extension awards; and if he will make a statement. [207119]

Jim Knight: We set out our plans for the future of Advanced Extension Awards in the consultation document, "Promoting achievement, valuing success: a strategy for 14-19 qualifications", published in March 2008. Advanced Extension Awards (AEAs) overlap in purpose with the stretch and challenge being introduced into A level from September 2008. Our 14-19 Expert Group advised that, as part of moves to simplify the qualification offer, we should work with the awarding bodies to withdraw AEAs as new A levels are introduced. We are doing this and expect the last AEAs to be taken in 2009.

Children: Armed Forces

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the educational performance of children who have one or both parents in the armed forces; and if he will make a statement; [207157]

(2) how many and what proportion of 15-year-olds with parents in the armed forces achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [207166]

Jim Knight: In January 2008, the School Census collected a services children indicator for the first time. No analysis has yet been carried out on prior academic attainment of the children flagged as being service children. To carry out this analysis would go over the disproportionate cost threshold. Analysis on GCSE attainment in 2007/08 is not yet possible.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve the educational outcomes of children with parents in the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [207165]

Jim Knight: We are working closely with the Ministry of Defence on the Service Personnel Command Paper and have regular contact with them on educational issues facing children of service personnel. This year, as part of the Annual School Census, the Department has begun collecting details on these children and this will allow us to look at their attainment over time.

Children: Asthma

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has provided to *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* schools on the management in schools of (i) asthma and (ii) other long-term medical conditions of children. [206535]

Jim Knight: This Department has issued guidance, available to local authorities and schools, entitled "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings".

The guidance was published in 2005 jointly with the Department of Health, and specifically addresses what schools can do to help children with asthma and other medical conditions.

In the same year we also produced, with the Council for Disabled Children, a handbook entitled "Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings". This handbook is a practical guide to help local authorities, schools, early years settings and health providers develop policies and procedures to support children with medical needs.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals were employed as staff by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [206542]

Kevin Brennan: The information about UK citizens born in the UK or abroad, and foreign nationals, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All potential new appointments to the Department for Children, Schools and Families are subject to nationality, passport, proof of identity and reference checks and clearance before contracts of employment are issued.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200729]

Jim Knight: Increasing the employee contribution rate for the teachers' pension scheme (TPS) would have no impact upon the Department's expenditure, as the cost would be borne by members of the scheme.

Departmental Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals recruited to his Department and its agencies are subject to (i) UK and (ii) overseas criminal record checks; and if he will make a statement. [206471]

Kevin Brennan: Since 2002, it has been my Department's policy to complete enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for all individuals (regardless of place of birth) who occupy certain 'regulated' posts as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions Order) 1975. These posts involve direct contact with children or vulnerable adults. From 12 December 2007, following an amendment to the aforementioned Order, my Department has also completed enhanced checks for all individuals (again regardless of place of birth) who occupy posts with access to sensitive or personal information about children or vulnerable adults.

The Cabinet Office's Baseline Personnel Security Standard Good Practice Guide indicates that in certain circumstances overseas checks may be required. My Department complies with this guidance and ensures that appropriate checks are carried out where a lack of UK residence requires it.

Ecology: Education

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of pupils studying for examinations in subjects relevant to the understanding of climate change. [206186]

Jim Knight: The Department has produced new resources over the last academic year to embed sustainability in the curriculum and encourage young people to learn about issues like climate change. As part of the Action Plan for Geography, teaching resources have been developed for the new secondary curriculum to be taught in schools from September 2008, and these include modules on climate change. Environmental interaction and sustainable development are key concepts in the new Key Stage 3 geography curriculum. Making the curriculum more relevant for pupils and reforming teaching and learning through the Action Plan for Geography are likely to have a positive impact on the numbers of pupils choosing to study for geography GCSE.

Issues affecting climate change are also covered in the secondary science curriculum. The Government are committed to increasing the number of young people studying for science qualifications and to help achieve this aim it has put in place a robust programme of work supported by £140 million investment over the next three years. This includes introducing a statutory entitlement for all students to study science courses leading to at least two GCSEs from September 2007; introducing a non- statutory entitlement from September 2008 for all pupils achieving level 6 at key stage 3 to study triple science GCSE, supported by the triple science support programme now in place; providing additional incentives to recruit more high quality science graduates into teaching; improving the quality of teaching by making available good quality continuing professional development through the network of Science Learning Centres; and providing good quality advice to key stage 3 pupils about the wide range of careers available to those who study science. The Department has also just embarked on a national communications strategy aimed at informing pupils, parents and others of the exciting opportunities that are open to students when they study science.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools provide courses including teaching on *(a)* ecosystems, *(b)* microclimates, *(c)* renewable energy and *(d)* sustainability. [206188]

Jim Knight: All of these areas are covered by the statutory Key Stage 3 programme of study for geography, and renewable energy and sustainability are also covered in the Key Stage 3 and 4 programmes of study for science, so all schools should be teaching them.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the efficacy of farm schools in educating children on environmental matters. [206192]

Jim Knight: The Department has not received any recent representations on the efficacy of farm schools in educating children in environmental matters. However, through the our Growing Schools programme, we work very closely with organisations that promote children's understanding of food and agriculture, and the environmental issues linked to them, either through visits to farms or through growing within the school grounds.

Through the Growing Schools programme we have also supported the Year of Food and Farming, and funded the School Farms network to produce a resource to make the case for growing and keeping animals, and to guide schools step by step through everything from container growing to setting up school farms. The programme is also developing a new resource which considers how non-food crops are being used to produce renewable materials and fuels, and has close links with the Sustainable Schools Action Plan which shows how farms can help to highlight the sustainable "doorways" of food and drink, energy and water and local well-being.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students who gained five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in 2007 had not previously attained the required standard of level 4 or above in English, mathematics and science at Key Stage 2. [206867]

Jim Knight: 19,363 pupils who achieved five or more A* to C GCSE grades including English and mathematics in 2007 at the end of key stage 4, had not previously attained level 4 or above in either English or mathematics or science at key stage 2. This was 6 per cent. of all pupils who achieved five or more A* to C GCSE grades including English and mathematics in 2007; including pupils in the independent sector.

Of these 19,363 pupils, only 621 pupils had valid data for their prior attainment at key stage 2. This represents 0·2 per cent. of those pupils achieving five or more grades A*-C including English and mathematics.

Missing prior attainment may be due to a pupil attending an independent school where national curriculum testing at the end of key stage 2 is not compulsory. There will also be no key stage 2 result for any pupils that were not resident in England when they were aged 11. Disapplied pupils and those pupils who were absent from school when the tests took place have been included in the figures.

Gifted Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what private organisations are involved in the delivery of the gifted and talented programme; when the contract with each expires; what functions each is undertaking; and if he will make a statement. [205989]

Jim Knight: The Department has contracts with the CfBT Education Trust to manage the YG&T—Young, Gifted and Talented—Learner Academy and with Capita to provide training, guidance and support for leading teachers of gifted and talented education and educators. Together the DCSF, CfBT and Capita manage and deliver the national programme for gifted and talented education at national level. Information on the duration of contacts is commercial in confidence.

Mathematics: Education

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish the final report of the review of the teaching of mathematics by Sir Peter Williams. [206353]

Jim Knight: Sir Peter Williams is expected to publish the final report of the Review of Mathematics Teaching in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools in June 2008.

National College for School Leadership: Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the annual expenditure was of the National College for School Leadership on *(a)* staff costs, *(b)* publicity and printing, *(c)* education and training and *(d)* other costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [207021]

Jim Knight: The annual expenditure of the National College for School Leadership on staff costs, publicity and printing, education and training and other costs are:

2007-08

	£000
Staffing costs	11,124
Print and publicity	4,415
Education and training	[1]92,073
Other	[2]3,400
Total investment	111,012

[1] Spend (net of income) on programmes to deliver core college purpose. Majority of funding goes back to schools in subsidies, advice and programmes.

[2] Includes spend on ICT, which supports on line access to programme materials.

The purpose of the National College for School Leadership is to improve the lives and life chances of all children throughout England by developing world-class school leaders, system leaders and future leaders for the wide-ranging challenges of leading 21st century schools.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the National College for School Leadership spent on publishing and publicity in each of the last five years. [207022]

Jim Knight: The National College for School Leadership expenditure on publishing and publicity in each of the last five years was:

					£000
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Advertising, marketing and public relations	409	523	737	1,534	1,963
Design and print (including spend on materials for programmes)	1,851	6,010	3,373	3,574	2,107
Multimedia	415	1,018	2,252	686	345
Other	512	285	0	0	0
Total spend on print and publishing	3,187	7,836	6,362	5,794	4,415

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Newham Sports Academy: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on funding for the Newham Sports Academy. [207269]

Jim Knight: The only academy which is in feasibility is Stratford City Academy, The capital funding will be in the region of £35 million. This has been calculated by Partnership for Schools and is in tine with Building School for the Future and National Framework funding mechanisms. The academy will be an all age academy, providing 1,832 places for pupils aged three-18 years, The funding be will provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the London borough of Newham and the sponsor, Lend Lease. The final amount will be confirmed at Outline Business Case stage later this year.

Like other academies, Stratford City Academy will receive revenue funding based on the local authority school funding formula, and national formulae applicable to other grants.

In addition, Ian Stewart, an independent reviewer, has been appointed to lead a review into a potential educational legacy at the Olympic stadium. He has been consulting with the Olympic Development Authority and London Development Agency, among other key stakeholders, including community groups, and will report to Ministers at the end of June.

Primary Education: Admissions

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission research on the impact of *(a)* the latest code on admissions and *(b)* changes in the housing market, including the effects of rental provision and house prices, on the volatility in the demand for primary school places. [207332]

Jim Knight: September 2008 represents the start of the first school year since compliance with the School Admissions Code became a statutory requirement. The code and related admissions legislation help ensure that school places are awarded openly and fairly. During the summer we will be consulting on a number of measures that will further strengthen the code and enhance the admissions process. As with all policies it is important to have a clear picture of their impact and we will be carrying out a comprehensive review of all aspects of the admissions process in the future. We have no plans to commission any research into any links between the housing market and school places.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what account has been taken of trends in and forecasts of demand for primary school places in capital allocations for primary school buildings over the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [207337]

(2) what financial support from his Department is available to local authorities which experience an unexpected increase in demand for primary school places; and if he will make a statement. [207338]

Jim Knight: Capital investment for primary schools is allocated by a number of factors, including pupil numbers and pupil growth. Local authorities can also request extra capital, if they have exceptional pupil growth; we have just made such allocations to four local authorities to cover the next three years. As regards unexpected increases in demand, we would expect local authorities to reprioritise within their overall capital allocations from central Government. Government support for local government investment programmes is at unprecedented levels, and includes £1.9 billion extra in the next three years through the Primary Capital Programme.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what data his Department collects on the number of unplaced children due to enter their first year of primary school in September in each London borough; and if he will make a statement. [207341]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are under a duty to make sure that every child of compulsory school age has a suitable school place. However, we do not collect data about primary school offers or data about the number of unplaced children.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with London boroughs on the provision of primary school places for September; and if he will make a statement. [207342]

Jim Knight: The Department has had no discussions with London boroughs on the provision of primary school places for September.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance and assistance his Department provides for local authorities planning for the future provision of primary school places; and if he will make a statement; [207343]

(2) which bodies are responsible for providing statistics, data and advice for local authorities planning the future provision of primary school places; and if he will make a statement; [207330]

(3) when the data sources and analytical frameworks for predicting the future demand for primary school age children by local authorities were last reviewed for their accuracy; and if he will make a statement; [207331]

(4) what factors are taken into account by his Department when forecasting future demand for primary school places; and if he will make a statement. [207329]

Jim Knight: Planning for future provision of school places is the statutory responsibility of local authorities (LAs). It is for each LA to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population and to review the position regularly. The Department has published guidance to help LAs make accurate projections of pupil numbers on a rolling three-year basis for school funding purposes. The guidance is available at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/Resources/pupilprojectionguide/

However, the Department is currently looking at LA forecasting methodologies for future medium and longer term pupil place requirements with a view to developing best practice guidance to help LAs forecast as accurately as possible. Each LA is responsible for researching its own advice, data and statistics for the planning of future provision.

Primary Education: Appeals

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what avenues for appeal are available to parents who are not satisfied with the primary school place offered to their child for September 2008 by their local education authority's co-ordinated admissions system; and if he will make a statement. [207335]

Jim Knight: All parents that are not satisfied with their offer of a school place have the right of appeal to an independent panel, Parents can also appeal for a place at any of their preferred schools for which they did not receive an offer of a place.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided per pupil for schools in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [206833]

Jim Knight: The revenue per pupil funding figure for Northamptonshire local authority for 2007-08 is £4,170. The England average for 2007-08 is £4,530. Figures are in cash terms.

Reading: Young Offenders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the reading age of people in young offender institutions; and if he will make a statement. [207503]

Jim Knight: Data available to the Department on young people's literacy levels in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) has improved under the roll out of the Offender Learning and Skills Service.

Data from the Learning and Skills Council's (2006-07) initial literacy assessments on young people (for young people placed by the Youth Justice Board into YOIs) is as follows:

1,367 young people were judged to be at Entry Level 1 or 2 (the reading age expected of five to seven-year-olds)

2,219 young offenders were judged to be at Entry Level 3 (the reading age expected of seven to 11-year-olds)

2,506 young offenders were judged to be at Level 1 Literacy (the reading age expected of 11 to 14-year-olds)

976 young offenders were judged to be at Level 2 Literacy (the reading age expected of 14 to 16-year-olds)

54 young offenders were judged to fall below Entry Level 1

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained schools asked prospective parents to make a financial contribution as part of the process of school admission in each year from 2005 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [201087]

Jim Knight: The Department does not routinely check the content of schools' admission arrangements as they are subject to a local consultation process. In our recent analysis of the published admission arrangements for 2008 in three local authority areas, we found that seven out of 570 schools had included a statement or request regarding financial contributions in their admission arrangements; and six of these schools confirmed this when we wrote to them asking them to verify our findings. This ~~is a~~ small minority, but we are very clear that schools cannot ask for a financial contribution as part of the admission process and wherever this is found to be happening we will not tolerate it. Even if voluntary, linking a charge to the school admission process suggests that parents who will pay the voluntary charge will be given priority if the school is oversubscribed.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the difference in the costs to local education authorities of registering a new child in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools at (i) the start of the school year and (ii) another time. [206845]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made an assessment.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* rules, *(b)* best practice guidance and *(c)* financial incentives and penalties are relevant to the management of surplus school places by local authorities in (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [207336]

Jim Knight: There is no 'surplus places' rule in place. However, surplus places can represent a poor use of resources, particularly where schools with surplus also have poor standards. The Department and the Audit Commission have jointly developed a toolkit for LAs and schools to help them manage surplus places in primary schools. The toolkit is available on Teachernet at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/fallingschoolrolls/

The Department provides capital funding under TCP (targeted capital funding) and PCP (primary capital programme) to LAs for primary provision and BSF (Building Schools for the Future) to help LAs remove surplus places as part of the drive to raise standards. There are no financial penalties governing the management of surplus school places by LAs in primary or secondary schools.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he last assessed the effect of the 1989 Greenwich judgment on school admissions in London boroughs; and if he will make a statement; [207345]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to local authorities and schools on compliance with the 1989 Greenwich judgment on school admissions; and if he will make a statement; [207346]

(3) whether his Department has undertaken research on the impact of the 1989 Greenwich judgment on school admissions; and if he will make a statement. [207347]

Jim Knight: The Greenwich Judgment (R *v.* Greenwich London Borough Council, exparte John Ball Primary School (1989) 88 LGR 589 [1990] Fam Law 469) established that priority may not be given to children simply because they live in a local authority's administrative area. It was a sensible recognition that parents who live in one local authority area, particularly inner city areas, may be close to schools in a neighbouring authority and may wish to express a preference for those schools.

We provide guidance on setting admission arrangements that comply with this judgment in the School Admissions Code. It states in paragraph 1.16 that each local authority must ensure that their admissions policy does not disadvantage applications to their schools from families resident in other local authorities. The Department does not routinely collect or monitor school admission arrangements centrally, and has not commissioned any research into the effects of the judgment.

Schools: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that newly built schools are *(a)* minimising their gas consumption and *(b)* maximising their reliance on alternative energy systems such as solar panels and photovoltaic cells. [206177]

Jim Knight: The Department requires all new school buildings to reduce carbon emissions from new school buildings by 60 per cent. through a combination of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems. This requirement was confirmed in the Children's Plan,

We have developed guidance[1] to help the designers of newly built schools achieve this reduction, and are providing additional funding to all new secondary schools within BSF (Building Schools for the Future), academies and One School Pathfinder programmes for this purpose.

The guidance encourages the use of low carbon energy sources for both heat and electricity, without being prescriptive about design solutions. The guidance is supported by a simple piece of software, to be used at the early stages in the design of new buildings, which allows designers to test the potential carbon savings and likely capital costs for combinations of technologies. Both the guidance and the software tool present biomass, heat pumps and combined heat and power as design options to reduce dependence on fossil fuels (such as natural gas), and allow users to evaluate the effect of a number of renewable sources of energy including solar panels and photovoltaic cells.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding will be available during the 2007-08 Session to refurbish schools with *(a)* low carbon and *(b)* sustainable energy systems. [206184]

Jim Knight: The Department will be investing £21.9 billion in new and refurbished schools over the period 2008-11. This includes £1.9 billion investment for the primary capital programme and £9.6 billion for Building Schools for the Future.

Within the capital programme we do not earmark funding for specific measures such as low carbon or sustainable energy systems. Funding is delegated to local authorities for investment in local priorities. Local authorities, to whom we delegate the funding, are required to meet the Department's carbon reduction target for new buildings, and comply with Building Regulations and local planning requirements. So significant (but unquantifiable) sums of money will go to these purposes.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to improve the management of sustainable energy systems in schools built in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [206191]

Jim Knight: The Department has published a volume of case studies of sustainable schools which highlight examples of good and bad practice, including the operation of low energy systems that have been incorporated in their design. A copy of this publication, "Design of Sustainable Schools—Case Studies", has been sent to all local authorities.

The DCSF has also provided specific advice on energy management to all schools, not just those built in the past two years. We have prepared a good practice guide on energy and water management; a bursars' guide to sustainable school operation which focuses on energy; and developed top 10 tips to improve energy and water efficiency. Each of these documents refers users to comprehensive sources of further information.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for Building Regulations which already require that new schools are provided with full details of the installed systems and their methods of operation and maintenance so that they use no more fuel and power than is reasonable. It is the responsibility of the construction team to produce this information.

Ultimately the management of systems within school buildings is the responsibility of their owners and occupiers.

Schools: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* Building Schools for the Future and *(b)* other capital expenditure relating to the Isle of Wight has been brought forward to (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 from his Department's original plans. [207293]

Jim Knight: To date, no capital expenditure relating to the Isle of Wight has been brought forward to 2008-09 or 2009-10 from our original plans. The Isle of Wight and its schools are receiving capital support of £6.5 million in 2008-09 and £11.6 million in 2009-10. The increase in 2009-10 reflects an allocation of £3 million for the new Primary Capital programme, also £2 million Targeted Capital funding. In addition, the authority has a Building Schools for the Future pathfinder project which is receiving capital support of £32 million.

Schools: Offensive Weapons

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to encourage schools to use their powers to screen pupils randomly using metal detectors and conduct searches of pupils suspected of carrying a weapon. [205911]

Jim Knight: Schools are generally safe places. To help head teachers keep them safe, we gave schools in May 2007 a new power to search, without consent, any pupil whom they suspect, after random screening or otherwise, to be carrying a weapon. When issuing guidance on this new power, my Department also brought to schools' attention their existing power to screen pupils at random for weapons using screening wands or arches. The guidance set out not only the benefits but also the acknowledged risks of using either power.

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[1] www.teachernet.gov.uk/carbontargets

It is for head teachers to determine if and when they use these powers, based on their knowledge of their own school. The Department does not collect data on the use of these powers, nor are schools obliged to tell us when they conduct searches or if they find weapons. When a pupil is suspected of carrying a weapon, some schools may rely on the direct and immediate intervention of the local police, and we would not wish to discourage them from taking that approach.

Schools: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of classrooms in maintained schools which were out of action due to their state of disrepair at the latest date for which figures are available. [206932]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on the number of classrooms which were out of action due to their state of disrepair. The bulk of schools capital is allocated by formula to authorities and schools, so that they can address their local asset management planning priorities, including the improvement of the condition of buildings. Schools decide on the amount of revenue funding to allocate to building repairs and maintenance.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.7 billion in 2008-09 and will rise further to £8.2 billion by 2010-11. A survey of local authorities in 2007 indicated that 27,000 classrooms had been built or improved in the 10 years from 1997, in addition to classrooms improved as part of whole-school schemes.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils *(a)* with a special educational need, *(b)* on school action, *(c)* on school action plus and *(d)* with a statement of special educational need are entitled to free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [207167]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals by SEN provision[2], January 2007 England

	Maintained primary			*Maintained secondary[3]*		
	Total pupils[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4]*	*Total pupils[2]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4]*
SEN provision						
No provision	3,320,060	432,250	13.0	2,670,850	280,620	10.5
Total number of pupils with SEN without statements	720,890	207,780	28.5	531,610	132,240	24.9
School Action	485,260	133,560	27.5	365,130	85,710	23.5
School Action Plus	243,630	74,210	30.5	166,480	46,530	28.0
Statement of SEN	61,800	15,480	25.0	70,020	16,840	24.0
Total SEN[5]	790,690	223,250	28.2	601,630	149,080	24.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. [2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils. [3] Excludes City Technology Colleges and Academies. [4] Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals expressed as a percentage of number (headcount) of pupils in each SEN provision. [5] Includes pupils with statements, and those identified by schools as having SEN who do not have statements. *Note:* Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source: School Census.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what methods schools and colleges may employ to select students for diploma courses; and if he will make a statement. [207505]

Jim Knight: The prime criterion for deciding whether a young person undertakes a diploma is whether it is the best option for him or her. Diplomas, along with apprenticeships and general qualifications, are an important part of ensuring the right choices are available to young people.

Specialist Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of maintained secondary schools which are entitled to but have not yet become specialist schools; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost of increasing the funding of these schools to the average level of schools granted specialist status. [201103]

Jim Knight: There are 343 maintained secondary schools which are not specialist, although these are not all eligible to join the programme because they do not all meet the requirements of the Specialist Schools programme. Should they all join the programme, the extra revenue cost would be around £33.3 million.

Teachers: Mathematics

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the minimum level qualification in mathematics is for a qualified teacher of mathematics in a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school; [206351]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average level qualification in mathematics of recently qualified teachers of mathematics in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [206352]

Jim Knight: The minimum qualification level required of someone entering initial teacher training (ITT) is an equivalent to a grade C GCSE in English and mathematics. Those training to teach pupils aged three to 11 must additionally have reached this standard in a science subject. This minimum standard must be reached in order to train for the primary or secondary phase and in any subject, At the end of their training, all trainees must pass the skills tests in numeracy, literacy and ICT and be awarded Qualified Teacher Status before they can be classed as a qualified teacher.

The 2002 Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey reported that 42 per cent. of maths teachers had a relevant degree in the subject they taught and 76 per cent. had a relevant post A-level qualification. The 2007 report will be published on 29 May providing an update on these figures, There are no comparable data available for primary teachers.

It is not possible to make an estimate of average mathematics qualifications of new teachers. Those who trained as undergraduates may have gained a mathematics degree as part of their ITT programme; some trainees may have mathematics-related qualifications that are not collected in the application process and others may have gained a Postgraduate Certificate of Education in mathematics as part of their ITT.

Teachers: Pay

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary of teachers in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England was in each year since 1979. [205618]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the gross average salary, including all allowances, of full-time regular qualified teachers of all grades in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Cornwall, the south west Government office region and England and Wales for each year, where available, since 1979. Figures from 1979 to 1993 are only available for England and Wales not for teachers other than in nursery/primary and secondary schools.

Gross average salary, of full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools[1] in Cornwall, the south west Government office region, England and England and Wales

£

	Cornwall	South West	England	England and Wales
1979	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	5,060
1980	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	6,090
1981	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	7,640
1982	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	8,300
1983	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	8,890
1984	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	9,400
1985	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	9.950
1986	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	10,850
1987	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	12,410
1988	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	13,400
1989	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	14,380
1990	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	15,520
1991	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	17,140
1992	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	19,230
1993	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	20,750
1994	20,890	20,790	21,040	20,970
1995	20,890	22,620	21,040	21,550
1996	22,080	21,850	22,080	22,060
1997	22,810	22,600	22,810	22,790
1998	23,500	23,210	23,440	23,430
1999	24,500	24,120	24,340	24,340
2000	25,340	25,000	25,290	25,280
2001	27,100	26,820	27,120	27,120
2002	28,170	27,980	28,580	28,580
2003	29,880	29,650	30,350	30,340
2004	31,100	30,820	31,620	31,580
2005[3]	32,380	32,050	32,800	32,790
2006[3]	33,470	33,170	33,830	33,820

[1] Figures up to 1993 include sixth form colleges.
[2] Not available.
[3] Provisional estimates.
Source:
Database of Teacher records.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers had a (i) first, (ii) upper second, (iii) lower second and (iv) third class degree in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [206230]

Jim Knight: The information requested is held for an estimated 65 per cent. of full-time regular qualified nursery/primary teachers and 74 per cent. of secondary school teachers in service in the local authority maintained sector in England. The following table provides a breakdown of the class of degree held by these teachers in March 2006, the latest for which teachers in service can be identified. Information for previous years will be less complete and therefore does not provide directly comparable information.

Degree class of full-time regular qualified nursery/primary and secondary teachers in England, March 2006[1]

Class of degree	*Nursery/primary*	*Secondary*
First class honours	4.2	4.8
Upper second class honours	7.5	8.7
Lower second class honours	5.2	6.4
Undivided second class honours	75.8	67.9
Third class honours	0.5	0.9
Unclassified honours	4.5	7.6
Pass	1.1	1.4
Degrees awarded outside the UK	1.2	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0

[1] Provisional.

Source:

Database of teacher records and GTCE.

Teachers: Redundancy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teacher redundancies there were in England in each year from 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [205993]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for teacher training courses beginning in September 2008 have been made; how many were made in each of the previous five years; what assessment he has made of trends in the numbers of applications; and if he will make a statement. [206231]

Jim Knight: The total number of applications to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) in England is not available centrally. The number of applicants to mainstream postgraduate ITT is collected; however the number of applicants to mainstream undergraduate ITT courses is not available. The number of applications for employment based ITT (EBITT) is not collected centrally. The numbers of trainees recruited to all ITT courses which will commence in 2008-09 are collected by the TDA and will be published by the Department in January 2009.

The following table show the number of applicants to mainstream postgraduate ITT courses in England for the academic year 2008-09 as at 7 May 2008, therefore this is not the final figure for applicants for 2008-09. Final data will be available in February 2009.

	Number of applicants as at 7 May 2008
Primary	17,240
Middle	300
Secondary	18,470
Total	36,000

Notes:

1. Figures are founded to the nearest 10.
2. Some applications for Postgraduate ITT courses are made independently of the Graduate Teacher Training Registry and are not included in the figures.
3. Membership to the GTTR changes between years, therefore the higher education institutes covered may vary.
4. An applicant to ITT courses can make one or more application.

Source:

Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR)

The following table shows the number of applicants to postgraduate ITT in England for entry in 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Number of applicants to postgraduate ITT courses in England for 2003-07

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Primary	19,450	20,180	19,960	20,000	19,070
Middle	750	690	680	570	470
Secondary	26,520	27,300	28,360	27,450	25,170
Total	46,710	48,170	48,990	48,030	44,71.0.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Some applications for Postgraduate ITT courses are made independently of the Graduate Teacher Training Registry and are not included in the figures.
3. Membership to the GTTR changes between years, therefore the higher education institutes covered may vary.
4. An applicant to ITT courses can make one or more application.

Source:

Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR)

The number of people accepting offers to ITT courses is a more important indicator of take up rate than applications. Year on year changes in the number of acceptances between 2003-04 and 2007-08 have broadly reflected changes in ITT recruitment targets. While acceptances on PGCE courses for 2008-09 are a few percentage points down on last year, there are also fewer places on offer. The following table shows the number of successful mainstream postgraduate applicants in England.

Number of acceptances to postgraduate ITT courses in England for 2003 to 2007

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Primary	8,850	9,320	9,110	8,540	8,330
Middle	620	550	480	380	370
Secondary	15,880	15,550	15,410	14,810	14,270
Total	25,350	25,420	25,000	23,730	22,970

Source:
Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR)

The figures are published on the GTTR website at:

http://www.gttr.ac.uk/stats.html

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of newly-qualified teachers did not take up a teaching position in each of the last five years; what the average cost of training a teacher was in that period; and if he will make a statement. [206232]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the percentage of teachers who achieved qualified teacher status in England in each calendar year from 2001 to 2005 who were not recorded as being in teaching service of any description in England and Wales by the following March. Figures for 2004 and 2005 are provisional and may overestimate the percentage who were not in service as a result of the late receipt of information.

Analysis of figures for earlier years shows that over 90 per cent. of teachers who achieve qualified teacher status enter teaching service of some description eventually.

Number of teachers achieving qualified teacher status (QTS)[1] in England by calendar year who were not in service in England or Wales[2] by the following March

Year of qualification	*Percentage not in service*
2001	17.7
2002	16.4
2003	18.7
2004[3]	19.5
2005[3]	21.6

[1] Includes teachers achieving QTS through college and employment based routes.
[2] Teachers in service include those in full or part-time service in England and Wales in the maintained sector, independent and the further or higher education. A small number of teachers may not be recorded in service who are teaching in institutions in England and Wales that are not part of the Teachers Pensions Scheme or who have gone into teaching service in Northern Ireland, Scotland or overseas.
[3] Provisional.
Source:
Database of Teachers Records and GTOE

Information on how much it costs an initial teacher training (ITT) provider to train a teacher is not available centrally. The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) allocates and pays funding to providers but it is a matter for them to determine how they deploy that funding and other income received by them for the provision of teacher training.

To provide an indication of costs, the following table shows the unit of funding allocated and paid by the TDA in academic year (AY) 2007-08 for a one-year mathematics, one-year science and, by the way of comparison, a one-year geography postgraduate ITT course. This is the national rate and rates for London based ITT will be higher (5 per cent. higher for outer London and 8 per cent. higher for inner London). Training bursaries are available for some subjects.

		£
Subject	*Unit of Funding*	*Bursary*
Science	5,630	9,000
Maths	5,060	9,000
Other Secondary	4,900	6,000

In addition to the funding paid by the TDA, providers can also charge up to £3,070 (dependant on their access agreement) in tuition fees from individual trainees. Also trainees will be entitled to apply for loans to cover fees and loans and grants for maintenance as part of the standard student support arrangements.

Teachers: Vacancies

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching posts in maintained schools in England were vacant at the latest date for which figures are available. [206937]

Jim Knight: The latest available information shows that there were 2,510 teaching posts vacant in January 2008, This figure can be found in table 6 of the Statistical First Release 'School Workforce in England' at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000787/index.shtml

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching posts in maintained schools in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley were vacant at the latest date for which figures are available. [207126]

Jim Knight: The latest available information shows that there were 530 vacancies in London and there were 14 vacancies in the London borough of Bexley in January 2007. These figures can be found in table 19 of the Statistical First Release 'School Workforce in England' at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

Young People

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 405W, whether each of the two staff are receiving at least one day of training or education each week. [205515]

Kevin Brennan: My answer of 12 March explained that the Department employed two full time staff who were under 18 years of age, However the current position is that one left the Department on 31 March and the other is now over 18 years of age. Records of specific time spent on training or education, including day release, are not kept centrally; however inquiries indicate full induction and appropriate levels of training, including on-the-job training for the specific posts held, amounting to at least an average of one day a week training or education,

The Department is committed to encouraging young people to have the best possible start to their working lives and staff are directed to guidance on support for time off for study or training on the Department's main website.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games: China

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 758W, on Olympic Games: China, what specific exceptions the Beijing Olympic Games Organising Committee referred to during discussions on their commitment to the free movement of accredited and non-accredited journalists. [206959]

Tessa Jowell: Media regulations implemented in China on 1 January 2007 apply to all foreign correspondents. The regulations temporarily lift restrictions on travel and the requirement to seek official permission for interviews up to and during the Olympics. We regularly urge the Chinese government to ensure the regulations are fully implemented in all regions (including Tibet), that they remain in place after the Olympics and be extended to China's domestic journalists.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1059, on the Beijing Olympic Games, what assessment she has made of China's compliance with its commitment to the International Olympic Committee to ensure the free movement of accredited and non-accredited journalists in the run-up to the Olympics. [206970]

Tessa Jowell: We welcomed the media regulations implemented in China on 1 January 2007 for foreign correspondents that temporarily lift restrictions on travel and the requirement to seek official permission for interviews up to and during the Olympics. We regularly urge the Chinese government to ensure the regulations are fully implemented in all regions (including Tibet), that they will remain in place after the Olympics and be extended to China's domestic journalists. The Foreign Secretary did so most recently during his visit to China in February. I raised this during my last visit to Beijing in November 2007, when I also mentioned the practical effect of the arrangements with British journalists resident in Beijing. I continue to raise this, most recently during the Chinese Minister for Information's visit to the UK in March.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many Government officials will accompany her to the Beijing Olympic Games; what the purpose of each individual's attendance is; and what estimate she has made of the costs associated with such attendance. [206976]

Tessa Jowell: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Library.

I will be accompanied by one Private Secretary to both the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games. I will also be working closely with the officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, including press officers and staff from the Government Olympic Executive.

I would also refer the hon. Member to the answer being given to him today by my hon. Friend the Minister of Sport about attendance at the Beijing Games.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in the House of Commons in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206798]

Nick Harvey: The House at present has three full-time advanced apprentices in the Craft Team within the Facilities Department. Currently, one apprentice (hot-water fitter) is working on NVQ level 3 and the two others (carpenter/joiners) are working on NVQ level 2.

For the past five years the House has also run a 'pre-apprenticeship scheme' sponsored by Mr. Speaker. This scheme offers students from Southwark, an opportunity to spend one day per week for one school year in a work area of their choice. The scheme is being further developed for October 2008 so that the students who come to the House—around 10 to 12 per year—will spend two years here rather than one and will complete the first level of a modern apprenticeship.

Amendment Papers: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will take steps to ensure that all amendments to Bills are published on the Parliamentary internet site before 8:30 am on days on which those bills are to be considered in Committee or at report stage; and if he will make a statement. [207188]

Nick Harvey: The present agreement with the electronic services provider to the House allows for up to eight amendment papers to be published progressively on the internet site between 7.30 am and 9.30 am, with any remaining amendment papers published progressively thereafter. The agreement recognises that not everything can be published at the same time without incurring disproportionate costs, but does allow for publishing according to priorities set by the House. Amendment papers relating to committee or report stage for bills to be considered on the day of publication of the amendment paper are given priority. While it is not possible under the agreement to guarantee that any particular amendment paper in this category will be published by 8.30 am, an examination of the records of uploading times since January 2008 reveals that in fact 70 per cent. of all amendment papers published in the period, including those for future days, were made available on the parliamentary website before 8.30 am. As a recent example, the amendment paper for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill for Monday 19 May, for consideration that day in Committee of the Whole House, was published on the website at 7.37 am.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on the High Court decision in relation to the details of hon. Members' allowances; whether a further appeal is planned against the decision; and how much has been spent on legal and tribunal proceedings in relation to disclosure of hon. Members' allowances since the commencement of the matter. [207071]

Nick Harvey: The House has decided not to seek leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal against the judgment of the divisional court of 16 May 2008. The cost of this litigation up to 20 May 2008 is £82,673. This figure includes charges up to that date not yet invoiced to the House of Commons. There may be further charges.

The House has been ordered to pay the costs of the other litigants. The final figure is not yet established, but court has ordered payment of an interim figure of £39,363.

The breakdown of figures including VAT for other FOI cases related to Members' expenses and allowances charged to the House of Commons as at 30 April 2008 comprise:

	£
Treasury solicitor (TSol) legal fees	35,776.99
Disbursements (couriers/travel/counsel's fees)	13,070.32
Total	48,847.00

Although additional charges may be made to these latter accounts, they are unlikely to rise significantly beyond this total. Within these figures, the legal cost of the tribunal case in February 2007 relating to travel expenses has been given as £17,232 as announced in my previous answer on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1374W.

Members: Home Addresses

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether incoming mail for hon. Members will continue to be screened at the House after the home addresses of hon. Members have been published; what arrangements will be made to screen incoming mail sent directly to hon. Members' home addresses *(a)* at those addresses and *(b)* at the House after re-routing; what estimate he has made of the costs of such screening arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [207442]

Nick Harvey: All incoming mail for hon. Members will continue to be comprehensively screened prior to arrival at the House. Any additional screening would incur some extra cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Work

16. **Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential for decentralising departmental work to local offices otherwise planned for closure. [208035]

Mr. Timms: In reviewing our network of local offices, we have in a number of cases identified opportunities for decentralisation and implemented them. We have not been willing, however, to decentralise work merely to keep sites open; our key concern is to improve both efficiency and service quality.

Disabled Employees

17. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to encourage employers to employ those with disabilities. [208036]

Mrs. McGuire: We have already done a great deal to improve employment opportunities for disabled people. The Disability Discrimination Act requires an employer not to discriminate against disabled people who work for them or who apply for a job.

However, we want to do more to encourage employers to increase employment opportunities for disabled people.

As part of our employer engagement strategy, we are working with a number of employers and other organisations to overcome the barriers that disabled people face in getting and keeping jobs.

Pensioner Poverty

18. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of pensioners in poverty. [208037]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 1996-97, 2.9 million pensioners were living in relative poverty, after housing costs. Measures such as pension credit have helped reduce this number by over a million to 1.8 million in 2005-06. I have today placed in the Library a fact sheet containing projections of entitlement to pension credit, and other income-related benefits, up to 2050.

Social Fund

21. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the operation of the social fund. [208040]

Mr. Plaskitt: We continue to modernise and improve the social fund. Since April 2003, investment has been increased by £300 million. Over the last year, over 2.8 million discretionary loans and grants were awarded, to the value of £770 million.

We are currently exploring ways to achieve a radical reform of the budgeting loans scheme.

New Deal

22. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of extending the new deal for musicians. [208041]

Mr. Timms: From October next year, the flexible new deal will replace today's mandatory new deals, including new deal for musicians. Flexible new deal providers will be free to incorporate elements of new deal for musicians if this is the best way to address a jobseeker's individual needs. Ahead of that, we are reviewing plans for new deal for musicians.

Lone Parents

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to increase the support available to lone parents in work. [208019]

Mr. Timms: Sustainability in employment is vital in helping individuals move into jobs. We are providing additional support for working lone parents including, since April, the national roll out of In Work Credit, an In Work Discretion Fund and In Work Advisory Support.

The availability of affordable child care is also vital to enabling sustained parental employment. Since 1997, the Government have invested over £21 billion on early years and child care from around £1.2 billion in 1997-98 to around £4.4 billion in 2005-06.

Minimum Income Guarantee

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who will be subject to means-testing for the minimum income guarantee in 2050. [208025]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Our reforms make the state pension a much stronger platform with better coverage. As a result the proportion of pensioner households entitled to guarantee credit is projected to drop from 30 per cent. today to 15 per cent. in 2050.

Foreign Nationals: Employment

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign nationals were employed in the UK in the last quarter for which figures are available. [208026]

Mr. Timms: There were 2.3 million foreign nationals in employment in the first quarter of this calendar year, around 8 per cent. of the record number of people in work.

Barclays Bank

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department had with Barclays Bank in each year since 1997; and what the value of those contracts was. [205487]

Mr. Plaskitt: Since 1999 the Department has had a contract with Barclays Bank plc for the provision of the Government procurement card. As the Department settles its monthly account within the agreed timescale, there are no fees associated with this contract.

Child Support Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Support Agency will respond to the hon. Member for Cotswold's communications on his constituent Carol Rendell, case 323964324523. [199566]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 2 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Support Agency would respond to your communications on your constituent, Carol Rendell, case 323964324523. [199566]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve the exchange of information between the Child Support Agency and HM Revenue and Customs in relation to the assessment of child maintenance entitlement and payments. [206098]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* Current legislation allows for the disclosure by HMRC of information needed for any of a number of child support purposes, including to enable the assessment/calculation of child maintenance liabilities. The Child Support Agency continues to work day to day with HMRC and has recently agreed an enhanced process for the exchange of national insurance contributions information when required by the Agency. This is in addition to HMRC's powers to disclose information relating to the earnings of self-employed non-resident parents and information held for the purposes of functions relating to tax credits or child benefit.

Both Departments are currently working together in preparation for the move to base maintenance assessments on HMRC data as proposed in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were in absolute low-income households in each year since 1997; and what proportion of all children these figures represented in each such year, broken down by age. [204648]

Mr. Timms: The most common measure of low income used to capture poverty is individuals living in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, adjusted to take account of family size and composition. Analysis of low-income households can be found in the annual National Statistics publication Households Below Average Income (HBAI).

The Government's preferred measure of absolute low income poverty is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median income held constant in real terms.

Available information is shown in the following tables.

Children have been split by age into four age bands. This is in line with the age breakdown presented in the HBAI publication.

Table 1: Number of children in absolute low income households (before housing costs)

Coverage		*Number of children (millions)*
GB	1997-98	3.5
UK	1998-99	3.4
	1999-2000	3.1
	2000-01	2.5
	2001-02	2.0
	2002-03	1.8
	2003-04	1.8
	2004-05	1.7
	2005-06	1.6

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Table 2: Number of children in absolute low income households (after housing costs)

Coverage		*Number of children (millions)*
GB	1997-98	4.4
UK	1998-99	4.4
	1999-2000	4.1
	2000-01	3.6
	2001-02	3.0
	2002-03	2.7
	2003-04	2.5
	2004-05	2.3
	2005-06	2.4

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Table 3: Children in absolute low income households as a proportion of all children and by specific age bands (before housing costs)

Percentage

		Age				
Coverage		*0 to 4*	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 18*	*All children*
GB	1997-98	8	10	7	2	28
	1998-99	8	10	7	2	26
	1999-2000	7	8	6	2	23
	2000-01	6	6	6	2	19
	2001-02	4	5	5	1	15
UK	2002-03	4	4	4	2	14
	2003-04	4	4	5	1	14
	2004-05	3	4	4	1	13
	2005-06	3	4	4	1	13

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Table 4: Children in absolute low income households as a proportion of all children and by specific age bands (after housing costs)

Percentage

		Age				
Coverage		*0 to 4*	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 18*	*All children*
GB	1997-98	10	13	9	3	34
	1998-99	10	12	9	3	34
	1999-00	10	10	8	2	31
	2000-01	8	9	8	2	27
	2001-02	7	8	7	2	23
UK	2002-03	6	7	6	2	21
	2003-04	6	6	6	2	20
	2004-05	5	5	6	2	18

Table 4: Children in absolute low income households as a proportion of all children and by specific age bands (after housing costs)

Percentage

		Age				
Coverage		*0 to 4*	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 18*	*All children*
	2005-06	6	6	5	2	19

Notes:

1. The reference period for households below average income figures is single financial years.
2. A child is defined as anyone aged under 16 or an unmarried 16 to 18-year-old in full-time non-advanced education
3. The information shown in Tables 1 and 2 is for the United Kingdom from 1998-99 to 2005-06, and for Great Britain for 1997-98. Data for Northern Ireland has been imputed for 1998-99 to 2001-02. The information shown in Tables 3 and 4 is for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 to 2005-06, and for Great Britain for 1997-98 to 2001-02, as data for Northern Ireland has only been imputed for the headline statistics.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.
7. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children, while proportions of children have been rounded to the nearest percentage point. Ages have been split into four bands because of sample sizes. Total numbers of children are in line with National Statistics mid-year estimates.
8. Small year-on-year movements should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children living in relative poverty were in families with *(a)* three or more children and *(b)* four or more children in each year since 1997; and what proportion of (i) children in poverty and (ii) all children these figures represented in each such year. [204649]

Mr. Timms: The most common measure of low income used to capture poverty and the measure preferred by the Government is individuals living in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, adjusted to take account of family size and composition. Analysis of low-income households can be found in the annual National Statistics publication, Households Below Average Income (HBAI).

Available information is shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Number and proportion of children in relative low income households (Before Housing Costs)

		Number of children in the family					
		Three or more			Four or more		
Coverage		*Number in relative low income households (millions)*	*Percentage of all children in relative low income households*	*Percentage of all children*	*Number in relative low income households (millions)*	*Percentage of all children in relative low income house holds*	*Percentage of all children*
GB	1997-98	1.7	49	13	0.7	22	6
	1998-99	1.7	50	13	0.7	22	6
	1999-2000	1.5	47	12	0.7	22	6
	2000-01	1.4	46	11	0.6	21	5
	2001-02	1.3	45	10	0.6	19	4
UK	2002-03	1.3	44	10	0.5	18	4
	2003-04	1.2	42	9	0.5	19	4
	2004-05	1.1	41	9	0.5	20	4
	2005-06	1.1	41	9	0.5	17	4

Source:

Households Below Average Income, 1997-98 to 2005-06.

Table 2: Number and proportion of children in relative low income households (After Housing Costs)

		Number of children in the family					
		Three or more			Four or more		
Coverage		*Number in relative low income households (millions)*	*Percentage of all children in relative low income households*	*Percentage of all children*	*Number in relative low income households (millions)*	*Percentage of all children in relative low income households*	*Percentage of all children*
GB	1997-98	1.9	45	15	0.8	19	6
	1998-99	2.0	45	15	0.8	19	6
	1999-2000	1.9	45	15	0.8	20	7
	2000-01	1.7	44	14	0.7	18	5
	2001-02	1.7	43	13	0.7	18	5
UK	2002-03	1.6	41	12	0.6	16	5
	2003-04	1.5	40	12	0.7	18	5

Table 2: Number and proportion of children in relative low income households (After Housing Costs)

		Number of children in the family					
		Three or more			Four or more		
Coverage		Number in relative low income households (millions)	Percentage of all children in relative low income households	Percentage of all children	Number in relative low income households (millions)	Percentage of all children in relative low income households	Percentage of all children
	2004-05	1.4	39	11	0.6	17	5
	2005-06	1.4	38	11	0.6	15	4

Notes:

1. The reference period for HBAI figures is single financial years.
2. A child is defined as anyone aged under 16 or an unmarried 16 to 18-year-old in full-time non-advanced education.
3. A family is defined as a single adult or a couple living as married and any dependant children.
4. The information shown in Tables 1 and 2 is for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 to 2005-06, and for Great Britain for 1997-98 to 2001-02.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
7. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are. This means that After Housing Cost incomes will generally be lower than Before Housing Cost.
8. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children, while proportions of children have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
9. Small year-on-year movements should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, 1997-98 to 2005-06.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205898]

Mr. Timms: Information on numbers of staff disciplined or dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data is not available in the format requested.

The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007.

Since April 2007 disciplinary action for breaches of data protection requirements, and inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data, has been recorded under a general heading of disclosure of information. To extract more detailed information from individual records under this category would be at disproportionate cost.

The number of staff recorded as disciplined for disclosure of information is given in the following table. There are currently no records held on the system for dismissals on grounds of disclosure of information.

Disciplinary category Disclosure of Information April 2007 to Mar 2008—by agency

	Disciplined
Child Support Agency	1
The Pension Service	2
Jobcentre Plus	12
Disability and Carers Service	4
Corporate Centre	1

Employment: Lone Parents

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to support lone parents in seeking work. [208020]

Mr. Timms: Lone parents already have access to a comprehensive package of measures via new deal for lone parents or new deal plus for lone parents pilots to encourage them to improve their employment opportunities and gain independence through working.

We recently announced additional support from April 2008 to help more lone parents make the transition into employment including the national roll out of in work credit, an in work discretion fund, in work advisory support and work focused pre-employment training.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Disabled

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what role the Equality and Human Rights Commission has to deal with inquiries from the public purse about disability matters; how much funding it has to deal with such inquiries in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [185103]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 6 February 2008]*: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) runs a helpline for members of the public which includes disability inquiries. The amount allocated to this service for members of the public with disability inquiries for the six months from 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008 is approximately £0.5 million.

The Commission has a specific power under section 16 of the Equality Act 2006 to initiate inquiries into disability and other equality, discrimination and human rights issues. The Commission is currently considering a number of proposals for inquiries. The provisions in the Equality Act 2006 require the Commission to consult those affected, on the inquiry's proposed terms of reference in advance of these being made public. The Commission has an overall budget for the six months from 1 October 2007 until 31 March 2008 of £30 million. Within this budget there is scope for the Commission to use all of its powers including inquiries and formal investigations.

Means Tested Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what target his Department has set on increasing take-up of each income-related benefit in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [198822]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the likely trend in the take-up rate of *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* council tax benefit, *(c)* disability living allowance, *(d)* attendance allowance, *(e)* income support, *(f)* housing benefit and *(g)* jobseeker's allowance over the next three years. [199159]

Mr. Plaskitt: The only income-related benefit for which the Department has an explicit take-up target for 2008-09 is pension credit. As published in a written ministerial statement on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 20-22WS, the take-up target for 2008-09 is to deliver an annualised value of new successful pension credit applications of £767 million and to secure at least 250,000 successful new pension credit applications. The target for later years will be set in due course.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit are administered by local authorities, and estimates of take-up at local authority level are not available. There are no take-up targets for the other income related benefits because these are out of work benefits and the Government's policy is that, wherever possible, people should be in work.

For planning purposes, for pension credit, council tax benefit, income support, housing benefit and jobseeker's allowance we assume that the proportion entitled who will receive benefit remains broadly constant; for pension credit this is consistent with the 2008-09 targets. Estimates of take-up are not known for disability living allowance or attendance allowance.

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of members of defined-benefit occupational pension schemes that *(a)* have wound up and *(b)* have been in the process of winding up since 1997. [203263]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following information was provided by the pensions regulator:

> *(a)* Records show that 7659 defined benefit occupational schemes have a 'wound up' status with an effective date of 2 April 1997 or later.
>
> *(b)* Records show that 1012 defined benefit schemes have a 'winding up' status with an effective date of 2 April 1997 or later.

Notes:

1. A wound up scheme is one which has notified the pensions regulator that it has completed winding up procedures.

2. A winding up scheme is one which has notified the pensions regulator that it has commenced winding up procedures.

3. The data supplied by the pensions regulator is current as at 30 April 2008.

4. Total membership includes active, deferred and pensioner members.

Pension Credit

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process *(a)* a successful and *(b)* an unsuccessful pension credit application was in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by Pension Service office. [205388]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Pension credit applications March 2008

Pension Centre	*Average actual clearance time (days)*
Burnley	10.6
Cwmbran	9.3
Dundee	10.7
Leicester	12.8
Motherwell	12.3
London	12.5
Seaham	12.6
Stockport	20
Swansea	16.8
Warrington	11.6

Notes:

1. Separate data on average processing times for successful and unsuccessful Pension Credit applications is not available.

2. Birmingham caseload transferred to Stockport Pension Centre February 2008.

3. Only working days are counted. 4. the average Actual Clearance Time is measured from the date on which all evidence is received to enable a decision to be made.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Management Information.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what rules are in place relating to the treatment of inherited assets by claimants for the purposes of pension credit and income support; and whether those rules allow claimants to dispose of any of those assets to charities or others without penalty. [206681]

Mr. Plaskitt: In all the income-related benefits, which include pension credit and income support, income and capital, including that which has been inherited are taken into account in the calculation of benefit. Rules allow the decision maker to take into account any resources that a person may have deprived themselves of in order to secure, retain or increase entitlement to an income-related benefit

If the decision maker determines that a person has deprived themselves of capital, which could include spending money on luxury items, giving money to charities, family members or others, that person will be treated as still possessing that capital when assessing entitlement to benefit.

Within pension credit, assessed income periods for those recipients aged 65 or over were introduced to reduce the level of intrusion sometimes associated with income related benefits. The assessed income period is currently a specific period up to five years, during which time the customer does not have to report any changes to their retirement provision, by which we mean income from capital, annuities and pensions. During an assessed income period receipt of an inheritance would not generally need to be reported. When the assessed income period comes to an end, customers need to provide evidence and information on their current income and capital, in the same way that they do at the start of a claim so that their entitlement can be re-assessed before another assessed income period can be set.

Pension Credit: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase the take-up of pension credit; how many pensioners in Stroud constituency receive pension credit; and what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in Stroud constituency who are entitled to receive pension credit. [205389]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pension Service continues to undertake a wide range of activities to encourage people to claim the pension credit they are entitled to, including data matching to identify those who may be eligible but who are not receiving benefits, home visits for vulnerable customers and ever closer working with partner organisations, including local authorities.

Last December I announced a package of measures to further simplify the benefit system which includes enabling claims to housing benefit and council tax benefit made over the phone with pension credit, to be forwarded directly to the local authority without the need for a signature.

The Pension Service Local Service team in Gloucestershire works in a joint working partnership with Gloucestershire local authority, and works closely with a local Stroud partnership called Village Agents' which provides a holistic benefit take-up service across the Stroud area.

There are currently 3,860 pensioner households—4,690 individuals—receiving pension credit in Stroud. However, estimates of eligibility are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is therefore not possible to say how many pensioners are eligible to receive Pension Credit in Stroud constituency.

Notes:

1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the QMS scan at 28 February 2008. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and QMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Pensions: Forecasts

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the provision of state pension forecasts for individuals, with particular reference to the timing of the provision of forecasts. [206536]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Pension forecasts, provided by The Pension, Disability and Carers Service are available as follows:

"On request", either provided in writing or via the web-service. On receipt of a request from a customer by telephone or letter, The Pension, Disability and Carers Service will usually send a written State Pension Forecast within 10 days. The web-based service provides instant on-line pension forecasts to customers.

Combined Pension Forecasts (CPF), which contain an estimate of state pension together with an illustration of occupational or personal pension, offer a more complete picture of potential pension entitlement. They are issued as part of the participating schemes annual statement timetable.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1844W, to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley)

State Retirement Pensions

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to provide state pension forecasts for people expecting to retire after April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [207084]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1844W, to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley).

State Retirement Pensions: Males

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of men over state pension age who will be entitled to the full basic state pension in each year until 2050. [207160]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The information requested can be found in the following table:

	Number of men entitled to full basic state pension	*As a proportion of men over state pension age (percentage)*
2008	3.7	87
2009	3.7	87
2010	3.9	87
2011	4.0	88
2012	4.2	89
2013	4.4	89
2014	4.5	90
2015	4.6	90
2016	4.7	90
2017	4.9	91
2018	5.0	91
2019	5.1	92
2020	5.2	92
2021	5.3	92
2022	5.4	93
2023	5.6	93
2024	5.6	93
2025	5.6	93
2030	6.1	94
2035	6.5	94

	Number of men entitled to full basic state pension	*As a proportion of men over state pension age (percentage)*
2040	6.7	94
2045	6.6	94
2050	6.7	94

Notes:
1. Estimates are presented in millions and rounded to the nearest 100,000 or whole percentage point.
2. Estimates of state pension receipt or pension income are presented at individual level and relate to the United Kingdom.
3. Estimates refer to the number of people at or over SPA estimated to be entitled to some BSP in each year to 2050, estimates are only available for every fifth year from 2025.
4. Figures include deferrers and refer to entitlement not receipt of BSP. Some people may be entitled but not be in receipt of a pension because they have chosen to defer their entitlement.

Source:
Projections from DWP Forecasting Division using the Government Actuary's Department's Retirement Pension Model.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many abortions took place in each year since 1978; [205994]

(2) how many requests for abortions were not approved by doctors in each year since 1978; and if he will make a statement. [205995]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following table. Data are not held centrally on the number of requests for an abortion that are turned down.

Legal abortions: 1978 to 2006—England and Wales, residents and non-residents

	Total
1978	141,558
1979	149,746
1980	160,903
1981	162,480
1982	163,045
1983	162,161
1984	169,993
1985	171,873
1986	172,286
1987	174,276
1988	183,798
1989	183,974
1990	186,912
1991	179,522
1992	172,069
1993	168,714
1994	166,876
1995	163,638
1996	177,495
1997	179,746
1998	187,402
1999	183,250
2000	185,375
2001	186,274
2002	185,385
2003	190,660
2004	194,498
2005	194,353
2006	201,173

Notes:
1. 2007 data will be published in June 2008.
2. 2008 data are still being collected and will be published in 2009.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to provide patients seeking an abortion with access to the information they need to make an informed decision about their abortion, with particular reference to psychological problems associated with abortion; and if he will make a statement. [207181]

Dawn Primarolo: The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in its evidence-based guideline 'The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion' (2004) states that professionals involved in abortion services should be equipped to provide women with the information they need, including accurate knowledge about possible complications and sequelae of abortion, in order to give genuinely informed consent.

We have commissioned the RCOG to review its guideline. In addition, we are working with the Royal College of Psychiatrists to discuss whether further work needs to be undertaken in this area.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on public awareness campaigns about the health implications of excessive alcohol consumption in each of last 10 years. [207028]

Dawn Primarolo: We have financial information on Government alcohol expenditure from 2002-03. Figures for previous years were held on a financial system, which is no longer accessible.

Alcohol expenditure from 2002-03

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million 2008-09*[1]
Awareness raising	—	—	0.10	0.05	0.34	0.06	1.9	1.3	6.0
Home Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	3.5	4.0

[1] Planned

Anti-depressants

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has evaluated on the effect of anti-depressant selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors on immune systems. [206370]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not commissioned research on the effect of anti-depressant selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors on immune systems.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued a clinical guideline for the national health service on the management of depression in primary and secondary care. This guideline, along with the evidence NICE considered in developing it can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=10958

Clinical trials submitted at the time of licensing have examined the safety and efficacy of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). These data are carefully evaluated by the independent scientific advisory committee, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM), and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) prior to licensing to ensure that the products work and are acceptably safe. The longer term safety of the use of SSRIs in routine clinical practice is closely monitored by MHRA including reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) submitted by health professionals through the 'Yellow Card' Scheme. All new data, including data relating to the effects of SSRIs on immune system disorders, are carefully evaluated. Where appropriate, product information for prescribers and patients is updated and advice issued.

As with all effective medicines, SSRIs may cause side effects in some individuals and it is recognised that SSRIs can rarely cause hypersensitivity reactions including rashes, angioedema (swelling of the eyelids, face, lips, mouth or tongue) and anaphylaxis (a severe hypersensivity reaction that can cause difficulty with breathing). This is reflected in the product information for both prescribers and patients and their use is contra-indicated in patients that are known to be hypersensitive to the drug substance.

Bone Diseases: Medical Treatments

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on anti-tumour necrosis factor treatments for ankylosing spondylitis to be issued; and what the reasons are for the time taken to issue that guidance. [207642]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published final guidance on anti-tumour necrosis factor treatments for ankylosing spondylitis on 28 May 2008. Full information about this appraisal, including a timeline for its development, is on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11688

Cancer

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the statement made by Baroness Thornton on 30 April 2008, House of Lords *Official Report*, column GC70, on the Health and Social Care Bill, for what reasons the National Institute for Heath and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) interventional procedures guidance is included in the consultation document; for what reasons NICE's cancer guidance service is not included; and if he will make a statement. [206405]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 25 March the Department launched a consultation seeking views on the future framework for the registration of health and social care providers. The consultation runs until 17 June.

In the consultation document, the reference to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance issued through its interventional procedure programme is an example of the evidence the new Care Quality Commission will use assess compliance with registration requirements. The examples put forward in the document are not intended to be comprehensive.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, once it is established, the Care Quality Commission will develop and consult on guidance on a new methodology and compliance criteria to assess whether providers meet and continue to achieve the requirements for registration.

Cancer: Research

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Government funding was provided for medical and health research into cancer in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the health and medical research budget this represented in each year. [206520]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The information requested in respect of the Department's research and development (R and D) expenditure is shown in the following table.

	Expenditure as a percentage of total departmental R and D budget	*£ million*
2002-03	23	124
2003-04	25	140
2004-05	24	150
2005-06	26	168
2006-07	23	161

The Medical Research Council and other research councils funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills also invest significantly in cancer research.

Cannabis: Rehabilitation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females sought medical help for cannabis addiction in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) age group and (ii) health authority area; [207137]

(2) what programmes for treating cannabis addiction his Department funds; what plans he has to revise the range of programmes funded; and if he will make a statement; [207138]

(3) what drugs are available on the NHS to treat cannabis addiction; which drugs were available in each of the last five years; when these drugs were last reviewed by his Department; how much was spent by his Department on these drugs in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [207130]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on those being treated for cannabis misuse is not available in the format requested. The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) publish information from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) on the numbers of people in structured drug treatment; however, this information is not broken down by sex or by health authority.

NDTMS data shows that in 2003-04 10,096 people received structured drug treatment for cannabis misuse and in 2004-05 13,408 people received structured drug treatment for cannabis misuse. The NTA will be publishing data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 this summer. Prior to 2003-04 the numbers of clients receiving drug treatment were based on estimates.

The majority of drug treatment services are not specific to any one type of drug, responding to the needs of the individual client regardless of the type of drug they are addicted to. As with current drug treatment services, the introduction of any new service or programme must be based on clinical evidence; this includes any new services or programmes to treat cannabis addiction.

It is the responsibility of drug action teams (DATs) to commission drug treatment services in their areas in line with local needs. DATs are local partnerships, combining representatives from local authorities, health, probation, prison service and the voluntary sector, and are responsible for delivering the Government's drug strategy at a local level. DATs have the best understanding of the local needs and priorities of their populations and ensure that the work of local agencies is brought together effectively and that cross-agency projects are co-ordinated successfully.

While figures for the proportion of clients in treatment whose primary drug of dependence is cannabis are not available the number of drug users receiving treatment have increased from 85,000 in 1998 to 195,000 in 2006-07 and the numbers of drug users remaining in treatment has also risen. Drug treatment services have had a real impact, positively benefiting both drug users and the wider community; drug related deaths have decreased and the level of crime associated with drug misuse has fallen substantially.

Since 2001-02, the Department of Health and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB). This is allocated to the 149 DATs across the country to use alongside local mainstream funding, to provide treatment and services according to specific local needs. The level of Government investment for substance misuse treatment within the pooled treatment budget is £398 million for 2008-09, which is also the indicative figure for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The Department does not intend the funding made available through the PTB to represent the totality of funding for any area. Rather, it is designed to supplement mainstream funds and to encourage investment in improving treatment capacity and effectiveness.

The latest evidence-based approaches to treating problematic cannabis use, in both adults and young people, are outlined in the joint departmental and National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse publication, Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management, published in September 2007, and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline 51—Drug Misuse: Psychosocial Interventions. Treatment for cannabis addiction is expected to be in line with these guidelines.

There are no specific substitute medicines available for treatment of cannabis dependence, although medication may be used to treat various related symptoms. The Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management guideline states that

"clinicians should consider psychosocial interventions, especially brief motivational interventions in mild cases" while "more heavily dependent misusers may require structured treatment with keyworking".

Cannabis: Young People

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the particular risks to teenage boys associated with smoking cannabis. [200001]

Dawn Primarolo: In July 2007 the peer-reviewed results of a Department commissioned systematic review of studies into the mental health harms of cannabis use were published in *The Lancet*, volume 370, Issue 9584, 28 July 2007, Pages 319-328, titled 'Cannabis use and risk of psychotic or affective mental health outcomes: a systematic review'.

Reducing the harms caused by smoking cannabis is one of the priorities in the Government's new drug Strategy Drugs: Protecting families and communities. The 2008 Drug Strategy. Steps have already been taken, through the FRANK campaign, to ensure that young people understand the risks and dangers of cannabis. Copies of the Strategy are available in the Library.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) keeps the evidence available on the harms of cannabis and other drugs under review. In July 2007 the ACMD were asked by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary to reassess the medical and social scientific basis of the classification of cannabis in the light of 'real public concern about the potential mental health effects of cannabis use'.

The ACMD sent their report, outlining its recommendations for cannabis classification, to the Home Secretary on 28 April 2008. The ACMD have looked in detail at the latest evidence on the health harms of cannabis, including the risks to young people, and their report sets out their assessment and recommendations.

Care Homes: Inspections

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage change in fees charged by the Commission for Social Care and Inspection to residential homes was in each of the last five years. [206537]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2004-05, the first year of existence of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), its fees (annual fees and registration fees) were increased over the level charged by its predecessor body, the National Care Standards Commission, by an average of 20 per cent. Subsequently, CSCI fees have been increased by 20 per cent. in 2005-06 and 15 per cent. in 2006-07. No increases were made for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Clear

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2854W, on Clear, if he will place copies of the invoices in the Library. [198198]

Mr. Bradshaw: Copies of the invoices totalling £12,450.72 have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department achieved in efficiency savings in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [207647]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has reported the following efficiency savings under the Gershon programme:

	£ million
2005-06	2,579
2006-07	4,921

A final figure for 2007-08, the final year of the programme, has not yet been confirmed as final data for most contributing projects is reported a number of weeks after the year end. Final figures will be collated in September and reported in our autumn performance report to be published in December. The latest reported figure up to December 2007 was £7,157 million, some 10 per cent. above our final target of £6,500 million.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each NHS trust were disciplined or dismissed for (i) alleged breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205907]

Mr. Bradshaw: No officials in the Department were disciplined or dismissed for alleged breaches of data protection requirements or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last two years. Figures are not available before then.

Details of disciplinary action taken by national health service trusts is not collected centrally but we believe that there should be greater transparency about these matters and have therefore instructed trusts to publish details of disciplinary action taken against staff for these reasons in their annual reports.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his Department's policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment he has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207919]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departments deal with requests for information on a case-by-case basis, applying exemptions where it is necessary and appropriate to do so. Any request for officials' home addresses would be handled in this way.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on IT consultancy services in 2006-07. [187015]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table provides details of the Department's consultancy expenditure. Consultancy expenditure covers expenditure on management consultancy, information systems/information technology (IT) consultancy, financial consultancy, property consultancy, legal services and HR advice. Expenditure on IT consultancy is not separately identified.

Expenditure on professional services, 2006-07

Organisation	*Spend (£ million)*
Departmental consultancy expenditure	141
Departmental expenditure on agency staff for staff substitution and interim management	63
Executive agencies and Connecting for Health	100
Total	304

Notes:
1. Expenditure is reported against the Office of Government Commerce definition of professional services.
2. Figures are an estimate based upon limitations in the current departmental finance systems.
Source:
Department of Health: Departmental Report 2007.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196449]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department employs three types of staff on a non-permanent basis:

Civil servants on 'fixed term contracts' of less than 12 months, as at the end of January 2008, 45 people were employed in the core Department using the same grading system that applies for permanent civil servants. The grades, numbers and annual salaries are as follows:

Grade	*Salary range (£)*	*Number*
Grade 7	£39,695 - £58,982	7
SEO	£29,298 - £43,344	5
HEO	£23,721 - £35,687	13
EO	£18,519 - £28,290	9
AO	£14,826 - £22,203	11

Agency staff, as at the end of January 2008, 166 people were employed in the core Department as agency staff. The average hourly rates paid to employment agencies for these staff and the numbers of people involved were as follows:

Average hourly rate	*Number*
£25.50	1
£24.50	1
£24.34	2
£22.50	2
£22.28	12
£21.62	1
£20.81	9
£20.26	1
£20.00	3
£19.22	14
£18.48	6
£17.37	1
£16.90	35
£16.83	20
£16.57	11
£15.79	2
£15.25	22
£14.63	17
£14.52	6

Contractors, as at the end of February 2008, 15 people were employed in the core Department as contractors. The average daily rates paid for these staff and the numbers of people were as follows:

Average daily rate	*Number*
Under £300	1
£300-£399	0
£400-£499	1
£500-£599	0
£600-£699	3
£700-£799	0
£800-£899	0
£900 plus	2
Unknown	8

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198971]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not record sickness absence due to stress, but uses a broader category of 'mental health, including depression, anxiety and potential stress-related problems'. For the calendar year 2007, the figures for this broader category were:

Cases of leave for mental health reasons

Grade	*More than:* *5 days*	*10 days*	*15 days*	*20 days*	*25 days*	*30 days*	*35 days*	*40 days*
Senior civil service	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Grade 6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Grade 7	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	5
Senior executive officer	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	3
Higher executive officer	2	2	—	2	—	—	2	1
Executive officer	2	1	1	3	1	2	—	7
Administrative officer	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	2

Figures for previous years are not available.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199044]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has set a target of 6 per cent. for the employment of people with disabilities in the senior civil service by 31 December 2008. The Department has not yet set targets for other grades.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the position of other EU member states in the Council of Ministers on the reservations expressed by the UK on the operation of the European Working Time Directive; [207613]

(2) with reference to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report,* column 1514W, on the NHS: working hours, what discussions he has had with other EU member states on the definitions of *(a)* on-call time, *(b)* workplace and *(c)* inactive part of on-call time; and if he will make a statement. [207614]

Ann Keen: Together with many member states, we continue to seek changes to the European working time directive (EWTD) to address the difficulties from the SiMAP and Jaeger judgments.

There is consensus among member states regarding changes needed to the EWTD to address the SiMAP and Jaeger issues.

Domestic Accidents

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accidents in the home that required medical attention there were in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* type of accident, *(b)* resulting injury and *(c)* trust. [207287]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows data from the Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System on the number of people attending accident and emergency (A and E) departments due to injuries from non-fatal home accidents in 2002—more recent data are not available centrally. Data are not collected centrally on injuries treated outside hospital (for example, by general practitioners). The figures are estimates for the United Kingdom, based on a sample of hospitals, and a break down by trust is not available. More detail is available in the Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System annual reports which are available at:

www.hassandlass.org.uk/query/reports.htm

or from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, who hold the detailed data which are also available at:

www.hassandlass.org.uk/query/index.htm

UK estimates of number of A and E attendances for non-fatal home accident injuries, by type of accident and by type of injury, 2002 (national estimates and 95 per cent. confidence limits)

	National estimate	*Lower limit (95 per cent.)*	*Upper limit (95 per cent.)*
By type of accident			
All accidents	2,701,326	2,698,107	2,704,549
Fall on same level (slip/trip/stumble)	417,893	416,627	419,161
Fall on/from stairs/steps	306,168	305,085	307,254
Fall on/from ladder/stepladder	35,281	34,914	35,650
Fall from building/structure	11,624	11,415	11,837
Other fall	476,994	475,642	478,350
Struck—explosion	492	449	537
Struck—moving object	160,351	159,568	161,138
Struck—static object	270,600	269,582	271,621
Struck—other	98,728	98,114	99,346
Pinch/crush (blunt)	79,171	78,621	79,724
Cut/tear (sharp)	234,643	233,696	235,594
Puncture	53,936	53,483	54,393
Bite/sting	72,673	72,146	73,202
Foreign body	128,023	127,323	128,725
Suffocation	15,601	15,357	15,847
(Suspected) poisoning	33,272	32,916	33,631
Chemical effect	12,628	12,410	12,850
Thermal effect	84,460	83,892	85,032
Electric/radiation	5,125	4,987	5,267
Acute overexertion	90,118	89,532	90,708
Other	113,550	112,891	114,212
By type of injury[1]			
Superficial injury	153,156	152,391	153,925
Open wound	759,361	757,655	761,071
Burn	104,161	103,529	104,794
Bruise/contusion	397,721	396,486	398,958
Concussion/unconsciousness	116,358	115,691	117,028
Other soft tissue injury	653,335	651,753	654,921
Bone injury	429,270	427,988	430,555
Joint/tendon injury	234,889	233,941	235,841
Chemical injury	78,372	77,825	78,923
Systemic injury	4,982	4,846	5,122
Non-injurious foreign body	77,470	76,926	78,017
Injurious foreign body	28,393	28,064	28,724
No diagnosed injury	68,819	68,306	69,334
Other injury	117,260	116,591	117,933
Unspecified injury	92,455	91,861	93,053

[1] Figures for type of injury may include some double counting due to people with multiple injuries.

Note:

Figures are estimates based on a sample of 18 hospitals across the UK.

Source:

Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System Annual Report for 2002

Drugs: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes there were where the admission was via accident and emergency for a drugs misuse related diagnosis, broken down by NHS trust in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [203240]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not centrally collected.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2383W, on drug treatment, how many hospital admissions in the last five years were related to illegal drug use, broken down by type of drug. [204410]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not centrally collected.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the relative *(a)* efficiency and *(b)* effectiveness of (i) Suboxone and (ii) methadone in treating drug addiction; whether such drugs will be made more widely available on the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [207227]

Dawn Primarolo: Both Suboxone and methadone are available on the national health service. The decision to use either drug is a clinical one, taken following consultation with the patient about their clinical needs and priorities.

In January 2007 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published the Technology Appraisal, "Methadone and buprenorphine for managing opioid dependence", which recommended the use of both methadone and buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid dependence. Such treatments must be funded and provided within the NHS in line with NICE recommendations. However, this appraisal did not consider Suboxone, a newer product which combines buprenorphine and naloxone.

However, advice on prescribing of Suboxone is included within the joint Department and National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse publication, "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management", published in September 2007, copies of which have been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website online at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/
Substancemisuse/Substancemisusegeneralinformation/
DH_4064342

As with all new medicines, Suboxone's exact place in treatment is still being established, although the Department's clarification of August 2007 that Suboxone can be dispensed using existing instalment dispensing arrangements, may have removed a possible barrier to the availability of Suboxone.

Health Services: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated for *(a)* specialist facilities and *(b)* development of best practice standards for local authorities and carer professionals in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [206780]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has provided an adults social care work force contribution to local authorities (LAs) area based grants. This funding is £139,000,000 in 2008-09 with provisional allocations of £143,000,000 in 2009-10 and £147,000.000 in 2010-11.

This funding is not ring fenced so LAs may use it as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas. This contribution is designed, as in previous years, to support work force training and development in the adults' work force statutory, private and voluntary sectors.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the cost to the NHS of unrecovered fees chargeable to those not entitled to free NHS health care receiving treatment *(a)* in Accident and Emergency departments and *(b)* as in-patients in the last three years. [207206]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, treatment provided in accident and emergency departments is free of charge to all people.

Successive Governments have not required the national health service to submit statistics on the number of overseas visitors treated or charged under these regulations, nor any costs involved. It is therefore not possible to provide an estimate of the cost to the NHS of unrecovered fees from those people provided with in-patient treatment who are not entitled to free NHS health care.

Hepatitis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a registered medical practitioner is required to notify the Health Protection Agency about patients with the hepatitis B virus; and if he will make a statement. [207178]

Dawn Primarolo: Viral hepatitis is a statutorily notifiable infectious disease i.e. the clinician suspecting the diagnosis is required to notify the proper officer of the local authority, usually the consultant in communicable disease control.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information the Health Protection Agency collects on the source of the hepatitis B virus in cases of sexual exposure; and if he will make a statement. [207179]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) receives laboratory reports of cases of hepatitis B as well as receiving notifications.

At local level, each health protection unit collects and collates data on demographic, clinical, laboratory and risk factor data for cases of acute hepatitis B.

The risk factors for hepatitis B include:

injecting drug use;

sexual contact (sex between men and sex between men and women);

receipt of blood transfusion/blood product;

acupuncture/tattooing/body piercing;

dialysis, surgical or dental procedure; and

other.

Collection of this information largely depends upon the reporting doctors and the laboratories reporting the cases.

The HPA has drawn up 'Standards for Local Surveillance and Follow-Up Of Cases of Hepatitis B And Hepatitis C', which includes a minimum dataset, copies have been placed in the Library and are also available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/
1194947376936

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to immunise babies against hepatitis B; and if he will make a statement; [207182]

(2) what the criteria are for the immunisation of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children against the hepatitis B virus; whether he plans to change these criteria; and if he will make a statement. [207183]

Ann Keen: Hepatitis B vaccine is not currently recommended for universal childhood immunisation in the United Kingdom. This is because the UK has a low incidence of hepatitis B.

The current recommendation for hepatitis B immunisation is to offer the vaccine selectively to individuals at high risk of exposure to the hepatitis B virus because of their lifestyle, occupation or other factors (such as close contact with cases/carriers), and to children born to hepatitis B positive mothers.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is currently reviewing the evidence regarding the use of hepatitis B vaccines.

Hospitals: Inspections

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the statement made by the Baroness in Waiting, Baroness Thornton, of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column GC151, on the Health and Social Care Bill, which 25 acute hospitals the Healthcare Commission has decided to inspect to ascertain compliance with dignity and nutritional standards; on what date it was decided that these 25 acute hospitals were in need of inspection; how the 25 acute hospitals were selected; what hospitals the Healthcare Commission has previously inspected to ascertain adherence to nutritional standards; and if he will make a statement. [206644]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Healthcare Commission that it carried out a review, entitled "Caring for Dignity", the report of which was published in September 2007. This was a national report on dignity in care for older people while in hospital.

The review covered various aspects of care affecting the dignity and respect of older people, including aspects of nutrition in hospital. A total of 23 national health service acute trusts were inspected as part of the review.

The "Caring for Dignity" report sets out which trusts were investigated and why. Copies of the report have been placed in the Library.

Medical Equipment: Safety

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what safeguards are planned under the transforming equipment programme to ensure that old and used equipment will remain subject to safety controls if re-sold; [207443]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect on costs of ending the community equipment recycling scheme and regional equipment loan stores. [207493]

Dawn Primarolo: Within the retail model, equipment is segmented into two groups, simple aids to daily living and complex aids to daily living. Simple equipment would be provided through retailers, owned by users, and would be subject to the same consumer protection laws that support all consumers in the purchase of goods. More complex equipment would be delivered through a purchased (contracted) commissioned service, as it is today, and therefore future safeguards and controls will be consistent with current standards.

Currently, there are no regional equipment loan stores but equipment is provided through over 138 individual stores operating across England. The model continues to support the refurbishment and reuse of equipment where it is economically advantageous.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 205-06W, on medical records: data protection, which *(a)* current and *(b)* potential suppliers are to have access to records in the secondary uses service as part of the contract tendering process; and what the terms and conditions of access to the service are. [207626]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1548W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 206W, on medical records: databases, for what reason Connecting for Health is unable to comment on the monitoring process that each Caldicott Guardian will employ. [207636]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1547-48W.

NHS: Bedfordshire

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts have patients placed at the Milton Park Independent Hospital at Wyboston, Bedfordshire; [207320]

(2) how many and which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts have withdrawn patients from Milton Park Independent Hospital at Wyboston within the past (i) three, (ii) six and (iii) 12 months, broken down by reasons for withdrawal. [207321]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. The placements in this independent sector hospital are likely to be commissioned by local authorities and primary care trusts across the country.

NHS: Drugs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* over-prescription of drugs and *(b)* unused drugs to the NHS in 2007-08. [207646]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not have a robust estimate of the value of unused, wasted and returned prescription medicines. We have recently awarded a contract jointly to the Universities of York and London to carry out research to determine the scale and cost of unused medicines and the varied and complex reasons why people do not take their medicines as intended. The findings of this research will inform policy development to reduce the amount of unwanted medicines and provide value for money for the national health service.

NHS: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Statement made by the Baroness in Waiting, Baroness Thornton, of 6 May 2008, *Official Report,* column GC151, on the Health and Social Care Bill, in what ways the NHS Operating Framework is being used to tackle poor nutritional care. [206646]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My noble Friend was referring to a number of tools, including the Nutrition Action Plan Programme and the NHS Operating Framework, which the Department is using to improve dignity and nutritional standards.

The 'NHS in England: The operating framework for 2007-08' (copies of which are available in the Library) sets out 10 principles for the NHS. The second of these is:

> "We will help keep people healthy and work to reduce health inequalities".
>
> "We will continually seek opportunities to promote health, as well as to treat illness. Recognising that good health also depends upon social, environmental and economic factors such as deprivation, housing, education and nutrition, we will work with other services as appropriate to prevent ill health and reduce health inequalities."

The fifth is:

> "We will treat every patient with dignity and respect".
>
> "We will treat every patient, service user and carer as a valued individual, with respect for their dignity and privacy. Our aim is to give each patient the care and service we would want for ourselves and our families."

The Operating Framework for 2008-09 includes a number of enabling strategies. One of these, "Empowering patients—choice, information and personalisation", requires primary care trusts to "create a more personalised service that provides" (inter alia) "a good user experience, where service users feel that their dignity is respected".

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to develop a national occupational health standard for nutritional care. [206664]

Dawn Primarolo: There are already national minimum standards on the provision of food and drink in care homes and hospitals, for example standard 15 of the Care Homes for Older People's standard, which covers meals and mealtimes.

We have no plans to develop a national occupational health standard for nutritional care.

NHS: Questionnaires

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1307W, on NHS questionnaires, if she will breakdown by year the total paid to Ipsos MORI for surveys by his Department from April 2001 to March 2008. [201398]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the amount paid by the Department to Ipsos MORI (Market and Opinion Research International) from April 2001 to March 2008, broken down by year.

	Amount paid to Ipsos MORI (£)
2001-02	136,417.50
2002-03	331,322.45
2003-04	662,939.78
2004-05	569,983.06
2005-06	824,591.96
2006-07	11,013,337.54
2007-08	12,432,063.97
Total	25,970,696.26

This answer corrects the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1307W, PQ196232, which stated that the Department paid Ipsos MORI £26,071,628.76 for the period in question.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets for waiting times for hospital services will apply to NHS hospital trusts in December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [207349]

Mr. Bradshaw: 'The NHS in England: The Operating Framework for 2008-09' sets out the standard for waiting times for hospital services, which will apply to national health service trusts. By December 2008, no one should have to wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate or they choose to wait longer. Copies of the 2008-09 Operating Framework are available in the Library.

Nutrition: Health Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the five-a-day campaign; and what *(a)* mechanisms, *(b)* baselines and *(c)* targets have been established to measure the effectiveness of the campaign. [207030]

Dawn Primarolo: Between 2002 and 2008, £5.1 million has been spent on the '5 A DAY' campaign. We measure progress on awareness of the '5 A DAY' message and consumption of fruit and vegetables annually. Awareness is measured in the Food Standards Agency's Consumer Awareness Survey and consumption by the Health Survey for England. Since 2002 when the campaign began awareness of the '5 A DAY' message has increased from 43 per cent. to 79 per cent. in 2007. Between 2002 and 2006 '5 A DAY' achievement among adults increased from 24 per cent. to 30 per cent. and from 12 per cent. to 20 per cent. among children.

Nutrition: Salt

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance the Food Standards Agency provides to subgroups of the population including *(a)* pregnant women, *(b)* the elderly and *(c)* those who are exposed to conditions that cause extreme sweating on dietary salt intake. [207285]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2003, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) published its report "Salt and Health" and recommended that the average daily intake of salt by all adults should be reduced to six grams per day. SACN found no evidence to suggest that such a reduction in salt intake would have adverse effects on any particular group in the population including pregnant women, the elderly and those who are exposed to conditions that cause extreme sweating. SACN has not published any further advice on salt intake for these sub-groups.

No specific advice has been issued by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to pregnant women, whose blood pressure is routinely monitored throughout pregnancy and will be advised by their doctor on appropriate treatment, or to those who are exposed to conditions that cause extreme sweating.

The guidance on salt intakes that the FSA issues to older people highlights that on average intakes should be less than six grams per day, that it is important to be aware of the salt content of ready-prepared foods, and to avoid adding salt when cooking and at the table. This is the same advice that is issued to the general adult population.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what key pieces of evidence the nutritional advice relating to salt intake is based; and what opposing evidence was considered in formulation of the advice. [207286]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency's advice to reduce salt intake is based on the report, "Salt and Health" (2003), by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN). SACN considered a wide range of published scientific evidence that was both supportive and non-supportive of an association between salt intake and hypertension.

SACN concluded that a reduction in the average population salt intake would proportionally lower population average blood pressure levels and confer significant public health benefits by contributing to a decrease in the burden of cardiovascular disease.

Oxygen: Medical Equipment

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs have arisen from the provision of *(a)* liquefied and *(b)* medically pure home oxygen to patients in each primary care trust in each year since 2004. [205863]

Mr. Bradshaw: Costs for the provision of the home oxygen service are held centrally by region. This is a total cost for all of the home oxygen services provided. The costs are as follows:

£

Region	*March to December 2006*	*January to December 2007*	*January to April 2008*
North West	6,762,483	11,114,012	4,204,762
West Midlands	5,423,750	9,029,037	3,533,439
Yorkshire and Humberside	4,348,374	7,431,217	2,843,236
London North	3,452,318	5,306,863	2,039,633
East Midlands	3,955,305	5,995,808	2,392,224
South West	4,950,441	15,120,279	6,137,667
Eastern England	7,650,570	13,315,612	4,816,562
South East London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex	4,148,019	8,672,380	3,260,518
South West London, Thames Valleys, Hants and Isle of Wight	3,540,710	7,172,604	2,634,541
North West	4,870,846	9,066,662	3,374,883

Note:
The service was in transition between March 2006 and October 2006, and therefore this data are not directly comparable to data from October 2006 when transition to the new service was completed.

The new home oxygen service came into effect on 1 February 2006. Prior to the introduction of the new service, costs were for the provision of equipment rather than the oxygen services provided for patients, and comparative data cannot be provided.

Parasitic Diseases

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with a toxocara canis infection in the last five years. [207171]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of people diagnosed with Toxocara species (*Toxocara canis* (*T. canis*) and *Toxocara cati* (*T. cati*)) infection in the last five years in England and Wales is shown in the following table:

	Number of cases
2007	1
2006	1
2005	5
2004	5
2003	3

Note:
Toxocara reports are not broken down by species into *T. canis* and *T. cati.*
Source:
Information provided by the Health Protection Agency.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have a visual impairment caused by a toxocara canis infection. [207172]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of people that have a visual impairment caused by a *Toxocara canis* infection is not known as this information is not routinely reported to the Health Protection Agency.

Pharmacy: General Practitioners

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Government plans to reform selling over-the-counter medicines by authorised GP practices. [206327]

Dawn Primarolo: The White Paper "Pharmacy in England; Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future" puts forward proposals to broaden access to over-the-counter (OTC) medicines—those categorised as 'Pharmacy only (P)' or as 'general sale list (GSL)'. Copies of the White Paper are available in the Library.

A consultation paper will be launched in late summer after the publication of the primary and community care strategy. The consultation will ask for comments about broadening the access of patients to OTC medicines through the reform of some of the existing controls on general practitioners selling OTC medicines to their patients.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of people defined as having a disability under disability discrimination legislation who incur prescription charges; [207495]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of people defined as having a disability under disability discrimination legislation who have not been able to obtain a prescription because of prescription charges in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [207496]

Dawn Primarolo: No such estimates have been made.

Preventive Medicine: Social Services

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the increase in the provision of preventative social care services. [206584]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department published a concordat, "Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care", in December last year, which recognises that prevention is one key element of the transformation agenda. Copies of the publication are available in the Library. The concordat sets out the cross-sector commitment to personalising public services and aims to support all councils to transform their adult social care systems by moving away from intervention at the point of crisis towards early intervention and prevention, focused on promoting independence and improved wellbeing. We are extracting and disseminating early lessons learnt from the Partnerships for Older People Projects programme and related initiatives to support the transformation programme.

It is for councils to determine the allocation of their resources in their area depending on local needs and priorities. This Government has made unprecedented investments in care and support, including a 45 per cent. real terms increase in local Government funding since we took office up to 2010-11.

Psychiatry: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure compliance of mental health trusts with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on computerised cognitive behaviour therapy. [207769]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (cCBT) is recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisal TA097, and the directions on NICE appraisals impose an obligation on primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure that cCBT is 'normally available' to be prescribed or supplied and administered to patients.

The Department's role is to set out a strategic framework and secure adequate funding for the national health service and adult care services. PCTs are responsible for providing local health services, including the provision of cCBT and together with their strategic health authorities are responsible for deciding which services to plan, commission and develop to meet the health needs of their local communities.

Salt

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on blood pressure of sodium intake; whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of people in England with blood pressure problems whose condition would be alleviated by changes in the amount of salt in their diet; and if he will make a statement. [207431]

Dawn Primarolo: The relationship between sodium and blood pressure was considered by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy (COMA) in 1994. COMA concluded that a reduction in salt intake would reduce the average blood pressure of the population. In 2001, the Food Standards Agency asked the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) to review the evidence since the COMA report. SACN considered a wide range of evidence for the relationship between salt and hypertension which is detailed on their report, 'Salt and Health' (2003). Copies of this report are available in the Library. SACN concluded that a reduction in the average population salt intakes would proportionally lower population average blood pressure levels and confer significant public health benefits by contributing to a decrease in the burden of cardiovascular disease.

The Government have not estimated the number of people in England with hypertension whose condition would be alleviated by changes in the amount of salt in their diet.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the recommendation that the national guideline for dietary salt intake to be set at six grams a day. [207432]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency's campaign to reduce salt intakes is based on advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) which is published in their report, 'Salt and Health' (2003). Copies of this Report are available in the Library. SACN considered a wide range of evidence for the relationship between salt and hypertension and concluded that a reduction in the average population salt intake to six grams per day would proportionally lower population average blood pressure levels and confer significant public health benefits by contributing to a decrease in the burden of cardiovascular disease.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an estimate of *(a)* the number of lives to be saved annually and *(b)* other effects on health arising from reducing dietary salt intake to within the Government's guideline amount of six grams a day. [207433]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of lives saved annually by reducing average population intakes of salt to six grams has been estimated by the Food Standards Agency to be around 20,200. While the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition considered the effects of salt intake on other health outcomes, the effects on these of reducing salt intakes to six grams have not been estimated.

Salt: Health Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the Full of IT campaign; and what *(a)* mechanisms, *(b)* baselines and *(c)* targets have been established to measure the effectiveness of the campaign. [207032]

Dawn Primarolo: The total cost of the 'Full of it' campaign was £3,745,000.

To measure effectiveness of the campaign specific pre- and post-campaign tracking research was established using RSGB face-to-face adult omnibus survey which interviews a nationally representative sample of adults 16 years old and over in the United Kingdom. The pre-campaign research set a baseline on awareness and claimed behaviour. Targets were set based on the latest baselines. These were:

a further increase in claim to be trying to cut down their salt intake among our target audience from to from 51 per cent. to 55 per cent. (result 55 per cent.); and

an increase in claim to look at labels for the salt content among our target audience from 50 per cent. to 54 per cent. (result 53 per cent.)

Scientific Advisory Committees

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is given to members of his Department's scientific advisory committees on taking into account all studies and data submitted in support of applications for novel foods, medicines and veterinary medicines and data on the safety of additives, contaminants and potentially harmful organisms before providing advice to Ministers. [206910]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* To ensure that the advice they provide to Ministers is informed by a robust appraisal of the available evidence, all of the Department's scientific advisory committees work according to the Government Chief Scientific Adviser's Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees. The Code of Practice is available at: www.dius.gov.uk/publications.html. In addition, members of the Department's scientific advisory committees are directed to relevant good practice guidelines and statutory requirements.

The scientific advisory committees that consider applications for novel foods and data on the safety of additives, contaminants and potentially harmful organisms, have developed a set of good practice guidelines in conjunction with the Chief Scientist of the Food Standards Agency, which cover the gathering and interpretation of scientific data and presentation of advice. The Good Practice Guidelines are available at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/goodpracticeguide.pdf.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency ensure that all new members of scientific advisory committees are given appropriate introductory training on the scientific and legal basis of evaluation and assessment of applications for a marketing authorisation of a medicinal product, based on statutory requirements as set out in appropriate legislation.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many smoking shelters were built at his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years; and where these shelters are located. [205041]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's London estate is 'smoke-free'. There are no smoking shelters on the London estate provided by the Department.

Tuberculosis

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the number of new cases of tuberculosis. [207025]

Dawn Primarolo: The Chief Medical Officer's Action Plan "Stopping Tuberculosis in England" sets out our aim to reduce the risk of people being newly infected with tuberculosis (TB) in England. Copies of this publication are available in the Library. Early detection of cases and completion of treatment are both necessary to reduce the number of new cases. In order to achieve this, the Department has provided guidance and tools to help the national health service commission TB services best suited to local needs, and deliver services according to best practice. The Department is funding complementary work to raise awareness of TB among healthcare professionals and groups within the population at increased risk of TB. In addition, the Department continues to fund and evaluate the effectiveness of specific interventions aimed at improving TB control, and will make the evaluations available to the NHS.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of *(a)* grant in aid and *(b)* lottery income provided to the Arts Council regional bodies was spent on administration in each region of England in the last 12 months. [200427]

Margaret Hodge: The latest figures available from Arts Council England (ACE) are for 2006-07. These are shown in the table.

	Admin			*Arts*			
	GIA	*Lottery*	*Total*	*GIA*	*Lottery*	*Total*	*Percentage*
East	2,453,310	574,610	3,027,920	14,723,025	3,539,146	18,262,171	16.58
East Midlands	2,195,138	649,494	2,844,631	15,708,489	3,643,454	19,351,943	14.70
London	5,533,958	1,937,742	7,471,700	173,876,453	13,176,675	187,053,128	3.99
National Office	6,455,843	12,652,590	19,108,433	27,543,123	80,939,847	108,482,970	17.61
North East	2,103,683	494,829	2,598,512	20,973,024	3,185,877	24,158,901	10.76
North West	2,805,189	1,107,292	3,912,481	30,059,930	7,872,599	37,932,529	10.31
South East	3,010,301	1,013,781	4,024,082	19,018,631	6,807,656	25,826,287	15.58
South West	2,461,112	97,463	2,558,575	21,447,540	428,176	21,875,716	11.70
West Midlands	2,284,194	1,081,701	3,365,894	49,046,548	7,204,750	56,251,298	5.98
Yorkshire	2,163,743	319,899	2,483,642	31,483,897	1,853,286	33,337,183	7.45
Total	31,466,470	19,929,401	51,395,871	403,880,659	128,651,466	532,532,125	

ACE's administrative functions also include arts development, partnerships with local authorities, and support for regularly funded organisations. 'GIA Arts' or 'Lottery Arts' in the table means all non-administrative expenditure.

ACE continues to reduce its administrative costs through a programme of reform and improvement. The reorganisation in 2002 delivered annual efficiency savings of £7 million. The 2006 review of ACE's national office will deliver further savings of £1.8 million each year. In 2007, ACE also conducted a review of support services, which will reduce annual administrative costs by a further £800,000.

Betting Shops

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed betting offices there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year for which figures are available since 1996. [208165]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information about the number of betting licences in force in England, Wales and Scotland for the years 1996, 1997, 2000 and 2003 is available in the DCMS Statistical Bulletin, Betting Licensing, Great Britain, June 2002—May 2003 which was published by the DCMS on 30 October 2003 and which can be found on the internet using the following link:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/Bettingpubn.pdf>

More comprehensive information on this subject is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Cricket: Schools

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department has given to the Cricket Foundation's Chance to Shine initiative to increase active participation in school cricket. [207719]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Support for the Chance to Shine initiative is provided through Sport England and the National Sports Foundation (NSF). Sport England advises that £2.5 million was awarded by the NSF to the scheme. All of this had been paid out by the end of the 2007-08 financial year. £2 million was also awarded to the scheme by Sport England for the funding period December 2005 to March 2007. All of this money has been paid out.

I attended the launch of Chance to Shine's Big Run Chase on 20 May this year, which encourages young people to get involved in cricket.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208173]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has issued guidance to staff to switch off personal computers when not in use. We will be implementing software to shutdown unused personal computers automatically shortly.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1370W, on departmental equality, what percentage of top management positions in his Department are held by women, what percentage of senior civil service positions are held by black and minority ethnic employees; what percentage of positions are held by black and minority ethnic employees in his Department as a whole; what percentage of senior civil service positions are held by disabled employees; and what percentage of positions are held by disabled employees in his Department as a whole. [208115]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

> The percentage of top management positions (all SCS grades) in the Department held by women is 41 per cent.
>
> The percentage of senior civil service positions held by black and minority ethnic staff is 7 per cent.
>
> The percentage of positions held by black and minority ethnic staff as a whole is 13 per cent.
>
> The percentage of senior civil servants positions held by disabled staff is 3 per cent.
>
> The percentage of positions held by disabled staff as a whole is 3 per cent.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made.[1] [207469]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is in the table.

	Total amount of bonus payments paid (£)	*Number of payments*
All staff		
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	424,480	204
Royal Parks Agency	10,200	20
Senior civil service	204,900	19

Notes:
1. The information has been amalgamated for the senior civil service as there are fewer than five senior civil servants in the Royal Parks Agency.
2. All staff includes those in the senior civil service.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects his Department's 2008 sustainable development action plan to be produced and published. [207782]

Margaret Hodge: The Sustainable Development Action Plan for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is currently being drafted. We aim to publish the document electronically on our website:

> www.culture.gov.uk

by the end of June.

Football: Racial Discrimination

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on tackling *(a)* racism and *(b)* homophobia in football since 1997. [207027]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS channels its funding for sport through its non-departmental public bodies Sport England and UK Sport

Sport England and UK Sport have not directly funded any campaigns designed to combat racism and homophobia.

However, in the financial year 2007-08 Sport England provided a grant of £317,066 to Sporting Equals, which champions race equality in sport, as well as funding the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity, which supports anti-racism campaigns in football like 'Kick it Out' and 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

Both Sport England and UK Sport are working in partnership with SportScotland and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland to commission a research project into barriers to participation and the number of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual participants in sport. A total of £25,000 has been invested by partners in the research and producing a guidance resource for governing bodies.

Football: World Cup

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the role is of *(a)* the Minister for Sport and *(b)* his Department in seeking to bring the World Cup to England in 2018. [207013]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My role in seeking to bring the World cup to England in 2018 is to lead for Government, coordinating support for the Football Association's bid, while representing and defending the Government's interests and liabilities. The role of the Department is to support me in this.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions the Government's World Cup Ambassador has met the Football Association since his appointment. [207023]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) has met representatives of the Football Association eight times since his appointment as the Prime Minister's World Cup Ambassador.

Gambling Act 2005

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has carried out an assessment of the costs of the Gambling Act 2005 to the gambling sector. [207780]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The estimated costs on the gambling industry were set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published in April 2005 with the Gambling Act 2005. In addition, impact assessments were prepared for each element of the secondary legislation required to implement the Gambling Act 2005 and these were published with the related Explanatory Memorandum on the Office for Public Sector Information website and separately in the Better Regulation section of the Department's website:

> www.culture.gov.uk

Licensing: Exemptions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to complete and publish the exemptions under the Licensing Act 2003. [207779]

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[1] *[Official Report, 9 July 2008, Vol. 478, c. 10MC.]*

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is currently developing options on exemptions for consultation. We are aiming to consult from autumn this year.

Listed Buildings: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to *(a)* list and *(b)* take other protective steps in relation to the Purton Hulks in Stroud constituency. [207318]

Margaret Hodge: The Secretary of State may designate historic assets only if they meet the relevant statutory criteria. The Purton Hulks have been assessed for designation as a scheduled ancient monument by English Heritage, the Secretary of State's statutory advisers on the historic environment. I understand that English Heritage considers that the criteria for designation are not met in this case.

National Lottery: Merseyside

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 852W, on the National Lottery: North West, how many Lottery grants were made to projects in Merseyside in 2007-08; and how much was awarded. [207821]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information appears in the following table:

Financial year 2007-08

	Total number of grants	*Total value of grants (£)*
County of Merseyside	394	22,661368

These figures are derived from the Department's lottery grants database, which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors and is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk.

National Lottery: North West

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 852W, on the National Lottery: North West, how many lottery grants were made to projects in the North West in 2007-08; and how much was awarded, broken down by constituency. [207823]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information appears in the following table:

Financial year 2007-08

	Total number of grants	*Total value of grants*
North West Region	1,851	117,186,020
Altrincham and Sale West	17	506,921
Ashton under Lyne	24	1,936,662
Barrow and Furness	36	578,067
Birkenhead	26	1,527,013
Blackburn	19	1,525,931
Blackpool North and Fleetwood	16	726,418
Blackpool South	14	3,482,539
Bolton North East	24	2,494,304
Bolton South East	16	535,525
Bolton West	27	322,428
Bootle	15	1,438,013
Burnley	30	2,612,698
Bury North	14	2,360,684
Bury South	14	89,197
Carlisle	28	1,164,123
Cheadle	18	135,832
Chorley	37	1,124,821
City of Chester	27	2,642,502
Congleton	16	564,426
Copeland	19	493,308
Crewe and Nantwich	18	2,549,776
Crosby	13	649,309
Denton and Reddish	16	481,348
Eccles	16	1,906,579
Eddisbury	28	787,490
Ellesmere Port and Neston	25	1,913,624
Fylde	12	512,999
Halton	15	1,377,143
Hazel Grove	13	737,383
Heywood and Middleton	21	171,546
Hyndburn	22	645,265
Knowsley North and Sefton East	18	597,893
Knowsley South	13	1,362,539
Lancaster and Wyre	43	2,961,625
Leigh	21	885,416
Liverpool Garston	20	118,444
Liverpool Riverside	134	11,712,048
Liverpool Walton	6	32,908
Liverpool Wavertree	21	185,129
Liverpool West Derby	10	73,971
Macclesfield	13	1,025,495
Makerfield	15	656,737
Manchester Blackley	13	84,791
Manchester Central	124	20,607,288
Manchester Gorton	31	871,354
Manchester Withington	43	559,320
Morecambe and Lunesdale	22	559,222
Oldham East and Saddleworth	23	1,420,914
Oldham West and Royton	19	233,609
Pendle	22	686,981
Penrith and The Border	57	2,508,109
Preston	42	3,205,646
Ribble Valley	16	795,653
Rochdale	26	906,584
Rossendale and Darwen	25	895,818
Salford	29	756,811
South Ribble	16	496,454

	Financial year 2007-08	
	Total number of grants	Total value of grants
Southport	14	513,969
St. Helens North	14	753,606
St. Helens South	19	946,398
Stalybridge and Hyde	13	96,002
Stockport	23	8,780,275
Stretford and Urmston	36	1,049,078
Tatton	14	168,646
Wallasey	23	398,491
Warrington North	17	274,882
Warrington South	16	2,415,600
Weaver Vale	24	2,164,381
West Lancashire	19	1,470,139
Westmorland and Lonsdale	55	2,017,937
Wigan	17	1,670,447
Wirral South	15	348,618
Wirral West	10	80,799
Workington	33	1,243,631
Worsley	14	83,199
Wythenshawe and Sale East	17	515,189
Total	1,851	117,186,020

These figures are derived from the Department's Lottery Grants Database, which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors and is searchable at

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk.

National Lottery: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 852W, on the National Lottery: North West, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in Lottery funding to projects in Wirral South constituency between 2006-07 and 2007-08. [207799]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No such assessment has been made. The individual lottery distributing bodies are responsible for making grant decisions independently of Government. Grants are made in response to applications and it is natural for the amounts awarded to particular areas to vary from year to year.

Olympic Games: China

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's officials will attend the Beijing Olympic Games in an official capacity; what the purpose of each individual's attendance is; and what estimate he has made of the costs associated with such attendance. [206961]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Library. All travel by DCMS officials is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code, a copy of which is available in the Library.

Both the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and I will attend part of the Olympic games, each accompanied by a private secretary.

The Permanent Secretary of the DCMS will also attend the Olympic games.

There will also be three DCMS press officers attending the Olympic games, to support us and the Minister for the Olympics. Three members of staff of the Government Olympic Executive will attend the Olympic games on the official Observer Programme to learn lessons for staging the 2012 games. This will be our only opportunity to learn from a summer games before 2012.

I will also attend part of the Paralympic games, and will be accompanied by a private secretary. A press officer will support the Minister for the Olympics and me, and two members of staff of the Government Olympic Executive will attend the official Observer Programme.

Few of those listed will be attending the whole period of the games—most attendance is planned so there will be cover throughout the games but without duplication.

Officials will be in Beijing to perform a number of roles. These include:

> Supporting Ministers in their work—including supporting Team GB athletes in competition;
>
> Learning lessons that will be essential in the planning and delivery of London 2012;
>
> Attending official team and diplomatic functions;
>
> Press officers facilitating media interviews and providing a service for national and international media.

At this time we do not have the total costs of sending DCMS employees to the games. These are still being calculated, however we are working to ensure the best possible price.

Regional Cultural Consortiums: Standards

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 17th May 2008, *Official Report*, column 944W, on regional cultural consortia: standards, how much has been allocated for his Department's review of regional infrastructure; and what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* remit of the review is. [206679]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's regional infrastructure review has been conducted as part of the day to day work of the Department and its public bodies, and no additional resources have been allocated to it.

The remit of the review was to look at how the Department can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its regional bodies. The Regional Infrastructure Review Working Group has put forward recommendations for future collaboration in the regions which are being considered carefully.

Royal Opera House

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* Arts Council England is taking to increase accessibility to performances at the Royal Opera House to those on low incomes; and if he will make a statement. [201816]

Margaret Hodge: The issues raised are a matter for the Royal Opera House and Arts Council England.

All Arts Council England regularly funded organisations take steps to ensure that the arts are as accessible to as many people as possible. Arts Council England has supplied the following information on the Royal Opera House.

In 2008-09, 40 per cent. of seats (260,000 seats) will cost £30 or below, 43,000

more seats than in the 2007-08 season. In addition, the Royal Opera House has a number of initiatives designed to widen access, including:

> The Paul Hamlyn Club continues to provide 20 tickets at subsidised prices for each main stage performance throughout the year. Prices are £20 for opera and £12 for ballet. Since its inception three years ago, almost 6,000 people have benefited from the scheme.
>
> The Student Standby scheme continues to flourish with more than 19,000 students now registered to receive email or text alerts for the £10 student standby tickets sold for performances at the last minute.
>
> More than 44,000 tickets are available for performances in other spaces within the Opera House ranging from £6 to £28.50 including chamber operas by The Royal Opera in the Linbury Studio Theatre. There is a flat £5 ticket price for the annual programme of Firsts—an innovative programme of short contemporary works supported by the Helen Hamlyn Foundation.
>
> In addition, there are more than 11,000 free tickets for daytime performances.
>
> The noble Lord and Lady Laidlaw of Rothiemay are supporting the new family performances initiative, where families who have never previously attended a performance in the main auditorium are invited to come and enjoy either opera or ballet. The performance is surrounded by a programme of activities including creative workshops. Prices range between £5 and £20.
>
> The BP Summer Big Screen programme reaches audiences in 17 different locations around the country from Aberdeen to Belfast to Leeds, London and Plymouth. Three different productions are relayed live from the Royal Opera House and are completely free.
>
> This year sees the beginning of Royal Opera House cinema screenings of both opera and ballet into the UK and North America. To begin with these will be existing recordings, with live broadcasts being scheduled in due course. It is anticipated that tickets to the cinema screenings will be approximately £12.50 with concessions also available.

Science

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the report on science and heritage prepared for his Department by Mike Dixon. [202025]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Dr. Mike Dixon's report to DCMS was not a report on science and heritage, but on whether and in what way DCMS should engage with or have a chief scientific adviser. The report was entitled 'DCMS Scientific Adviser' and we intend to publish it, alongside our response to Dr. Dixon's recommendations, later in June.

Sport: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Exchequer funding was spent by *(a)* Sport England and *(b)* UK Sport on organisations other than national governing bodies in each of the last three years. [207383]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England and UK Sport have provided the following details on Exchequer funding spent on organisations other than national governing bodies.

	Sport England (£)	*UK Sport (£ million)*
2005-6	32,049,029	3.89
2006-7	43,730,523	6.13
2007-8	54,646,083	7.44

Sportsgrounds: Disabled

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Premiership football clubs' stadia meet the needs of disabled spectators and other users in accordance with the accessible stadia guide. [207666]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government do not hold or collate this information.

Tourism: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the amount of expenditure by Israeli tourists visiting the United Kingdom in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* in 2008 to date; how many such visitors there were in each year; and if he will make a statement. [206159]

Margaret Hodge: The table shows the number of visits to the UK and expenditure from Israeli residents for the latest years for which information is available. This information is taken from the International Passenger Survey (ONS).

	Visits to the UK from Israeli residents	
	(thousand)	*Spend (£ million)*
2005	140	77
2006	164	88
2007[1]	141	89

[1] Provisional.

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206806]

Edward Miliband: In 2007-08, there were no apprenticeships within the Cabinet Office or the Central Office of Information. However, the Cabinet Office is currently in discussions to participate in the civil service wide pathfinder project to offer modern apprenticeship opportunities.

Civil Servants: Retirement

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many officials of Permanent Secretary rank retired from *(a)* the Civil Service and *(b)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office over the last 10 years; how many were (i) knighted and (ii) raised to the peerage; and if he will make a statement. [207708]

Edward Miliband: Between 1 April 2002 and 30 September 2007, 18 officials of Permanent Secretary rank retired from the civil service. Of these, 16 were knighted during their period in office, two were also raised to the peerage on retirement. Information prior to 1 April 2002 is not held centrally.

Between 1 April 2004 and 30 April 2008, 11 officials of Permanent Secretary rank retired from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. All 11 were knighted either during or after their period in office, and two were raised to the peerage. These figures include those retiring from the diplomatic service. Information prior to 1 April 2004 is not held.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether he has issued guidance to staff in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208166]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1329W, to the right hon. Member for Warley (Mr. Spellar).

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether it is his policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials in the Cabinet Office, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment he has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207437]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him today by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Cabinet Office Ministers since 1997. [204777]

Edward Miliband: No information is held for statutory instruments made by Cabinet Office Ministers in 1997 and only partial details are held for 1998. Since 1999, 32 general statutory instruments have been made in the name of the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

The number of statutory instruments revoked could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Languages

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which languages are spoken in the United Kingdom; and what estimate he has made of the number of speakers of each. [202744]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking which languages are spoken in the United Kingdom; and what estimate he has made of the number of speakers of each. (202744)

According to the Labour Force Survey, in 2006, languages other than English were the first language spoken at home for six per cent of the UK population aged 16 and older. The available information on the languages spoken is as follows:

First language spoken at home other than English, UK population aged 16 and older, 2006

	Percentage
Welsh	0.4
Ulster Scots/Ullans	0.1
Gaelic	<0.1
Any other	5.4
All other than English	6.0

Source:
Labour Force Survey.

UK censuses have also collected complete information on whether people understand, speak, read or write Welsh, Irish, and Scottish Gaelic (in the Welsh, Northern Irish and Scottish censuses respectively). The latest information is available in 2001 Census outputs. However, apart from English and these UK languages, the UK statistical offices do not currently collect information on which languages are spoken in the UK.

The 2011 Censuses across the UK will contain new questions on language. Topic recommendations for the England and Wales Census will be contained within the White Paper for the 2011 Census, which will be published and laid before Parliament at the end of this year. Parliament will make the decision on the content of questions in the 2011 Census in 2010.

Pay

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average level of take-home pay was in each year since 1980 in *(a)* nominal terms and *(b)* 2008 prices; and what the percentage change was in each year. [207774]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 2 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average level of take-home pay was in each year since 1980 in (a) real terms and (b) 2008 prices; and what was the percentage change in each year. (207774)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) in April each year. It is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Various breakdowns and analyses are available online for years 1997 onwards at:

http://wwwtstatistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13101

The ASHE does not collect information on take-home pay, only gross pay before tax, National Insurance or other deductions. Estimates of average take-home pay in real terms and 2008 prices are therefore not available.

Population

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 50-51W, on population, what the projected *(a)* population and *(b)* population density of (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Wales and (v) Northern Ireland is for the most distant projection made by the Office for National Statistics; and what assumptions about migration have been made in calculating such projections. [207695]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the projected a) population and b) population density of (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Wales and (v) Northern Ireland is for the most distant projection made by the Office for National Statistics; and what assumptions about migration have been used in calculating such projections (207695).

The 2006-based national population projections published results for 75 years ahead, that is, to 2081. Details of how to calculate the population densities for any year of the projections were provided in my reply to your PQ dated 19 May 2008 (205787). Using the country areas provided in this answer, and the projected population totals for 2081, produces the following projected densities:

Projected population density of UK and constituent countries in 2081

	Projected population (Million)	*Area (sq km)*	*Density (persons/sq km)*
United Kingdom	85	242,495	352
England	75	130,279	574
Wales	3	20,733	168
Scotland	5	77,907	64
Northern Ireland	2	13,576	152

Source:
2006-based national projections, ONS.

The long-term assumptions of annual net migration to the United Kingdom and constituent countries used in these recent national population projections are as follows:

Country	*Long-term migration assumption*
England	+171,500
Wales	+9,500
Scotland	+8,500
Northern Ireland	500
United Kingdom	+190,000

As previously advised in my reply to your earlier PQ (177459), the underlying assumptions for the projections are demographic trend based and should not be seen as predictions.

Prostate Cancer

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust (PCT) area in each year since 1997; and how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in (i) England and (ii) each PCT area in each of those years. [206402]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 2 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the age standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in (a) England and (b) each primary care trust (PCT) area each year since 1997; and how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in (i) England and (ii) each PCT area in each of those years. (206402)

A copy of the tables containing the relevant information have been placed in the House of Commons Library. The tables provide the number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death in (a) England and (b) primary care organisations (table 1), for 1997 to 2006 and age standardised mortality rates for (i) England and (ii) primary care organisations (table 2), for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

The current primary care organisation boundaries were introduced in October 2006, and population estimates using these boundaries are available for 2002 to 2006. It is therefore not possible to calculate mortality rates for primary care organisations before 2002.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the age-standardised incidence of prostate cancer was in *(a)* spearhead primary care trusts and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [206401]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the age standardised incidence of prostate cancer was in (a) spearhead primary care trusts and (b) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [206401]

The spearhead group is defined in terms of local authorities. Spearhead primary care organisations (PCOs) are those which overlap geographically with any of the area defined by the spearhead local authorities. For most, the whole of the PCO area overlaps with the spearhead local authorities, but some only partially overlap.

The attached table presents age standardised incidence rates and the number of registrations of prostate cancer in England and in the spearhead group. Figures are also presented for each PCO overlapping with the spearhead group. All figures are for 2005, the latest year available. An estimate of the percentage of the PCO population in the spearhead group in 2002 is also shown.

Table 1. Age-standardised incidence rates of prostate cancer per 100,000 population[1, 2, 3] England, Spearhead group and primary care organisations, 2005[4]

Area	*Incidence rate*	*95% confidence interval*	*Number of registrations*	*Percentage of PCO population within the spearhead group[5]*
England	95.6	(94.5 - 96.7)	28,887	—
Spearhead group	96.2	(94.3 - 98.2)	9,806	—

Table 1. Age-standardised incidence rates of prostate cancer per 100,000 population[1, 2, 3] England, Spearhead group and primary care organisations, 2005[4]

Area	*Incidence rate*	*95% confidence interval*	*Number of registrations*	*Percentage of PCO population within the spearhead group*[5]
Barking and Dagenham	83	(63 - 104)	63	100
Greenwich Teaching	83	(65 - 101)	81	100
Hammersmith and Fulham	110	(85 - 135)	75	100
Haringey Teaching	126	(101 - 151)	98	100
Islington	98	(75 - 122)	67	100
Lambeth	124	(101 - 148)	109	100
Lewisham	78	(61 - 96)	75	100
Newham	63	(46 - 80)	53	100
Southwark	85	(67 - 104)	80	100
Tower Hamlets	60	(42 - 78)	41	100
Bolton	95	(79 - 110)	142	100
Bury	127	(106 - 148)	136	100
Manchester	106	(91 - 120)	205	100
Oldham	144	(122 - 166)	171	100
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	116	(96 - 136)	130	100
Salford	103	(85 - 122)	126	100
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	117	(101 - 133)	209	100
Knowsley	96	(74 - 118)	74	100
Liverpool	93	(81 - 105)	221	100
Halton and St. Helens	83	(70 - 97)	143	100
Wirral	79	(67 - 91)	166	100
Barnsley	86	(71 - 102)	120	100
Doncaster	62	(51 - 73)	113	100
Rotherham	51	(40 - 63)	79	100
Gateshead	126	(105 - 146)	148	100
Newcastle	57	(45 - 69)	91	100
North Tyneside	87	(70 - 103)	106	100
South Tyneside	68	(52 - 85)	64	100
Sunderland Teaching	92	(78 - 107)	156	100
South Birmingham	122	(106 - 138)	220	100
Coventry Teaching	114	(98 - 130)	194	100
Sandwell	78	(65 - 91)	132	100
Walsall Teaching	121	(104 - 138)	193	100
Wolverhampton City	118	(100 - 135)	174	100
Bradford and Airedale	85	(74 - 97)	212	100
Wakefield District	96	(82 - 110)	186	100
Hartlepool	68	(46 - 91)	36	100
Middlesbrough	135	(109 - 161)	103	100
Redcar and Cleveland	104	(84 - 125)	97	100
North Tees	74	(58 - 90)	79	100
Warrington	57	(43 - 71)	61	100
Blackburn with Darwen	84	(63 - 106)	59	100
Blackpool	86	(68 - 104)	90	100
Hull	86	(70 - 102)	116	100
Leicester City	69	(55 - 83)	95	100
Nottingham City	74	(59 - 88)	98	100
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	106	(86 - 125)	112	100
Birmingham East and North	107	(94 - 121)	233	100
North East Lincolnshire	89	(70 - 107)	89	100
Stoke on Trent	68	(55 - 81)	104	97
City and Hackney Teaching	98	(76 - 120)	74	96
Tameside and Glossop	105	(88 - 122)	146	87
East Lancashire	103	(89 - 116)	232	86
County Durham	77	(67 - 86)	247	77
Northumberland	106	(92 - 120)	229	46
Cumbria	83	(74 - 93)	299	35
Central Lancashire	143	(129 - 157)	379	29
Warwickshire	90	(80 - 100)	308	23
Lincolnshire	118	(108 - 127)	612	13
South Staffordshire	104	(93 - 114)	393	13

Table 1. Age-standardised incidence rates of prostate cancer per 100,000 population[1, 2, 3] *England, Spearhead group and primary care organisations, 2005*[4]

Area	*Incidence rate*	*95% confidence interval*	*Number of registrations*	*Percentage of PCO population within the spearhead group*[5]
Derbyshire County	88	(80 - 97)	430	10
Northamptonshire	114	(103 - 125)	432	8

[1] Age standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence intervals around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Prostate cancer incidence was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD- 10) codeC61.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[5] Percentages based on PCO population as at 2002.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Burglary

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many business premises were burgled in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; how many persons were convicted of burglaries in each year; and what average sentence they received. [207742]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 gives the number of non-domestic burglary offences recorded from 2003-04 to 2007-08. Table 2 gives the number of convictions, the number sentenced to immediate custody and the average custodial sentence length (in months) for all burglary offences.

It is not possible to give the total number of convictions for burglary offences that related to burglary of a business as the court conviction datasets do not specify this information in relation to the type of premises/building involved. It is only possible to give the number of convictions for those offences which refer to a non-dwelling, figures for which are documented in table 3.

Conviction data cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Recorded crime data cannot be routinely reconciled with prosecution and conviction data as the former relates to the number of offences whereas the latter relates to the number of offenders brought before the courts. In addition, recorded crime data denote each offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against in the courts.

Table 1: number of non-domestic burglary offences recorded 2003-04—2007-08

	Number recorded
2003-04	7,317
2004-05	5,965
2005-06	5,472
2006-07	4,630
2007-08	4,874

Source:
PSNI Central Statistics Unit

Table 2: number convicted of all burglary offences, the number sentenced to immediate custody and the average custodial sentence length (in months) 2002-06

	Number convicted	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Number for which sentence length data are available*[1]	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*
2002	595	249	236	7.6
2003	602	291	275	9.0
2004	620	272	268	11.1
2005	557	265	256	11.3
2006	532	237	229	12.2

[1] The difference in the number sentenced to immediate custody and number for which sentencing data are available relates to the number sentenced to Juvenile Justice Centre orders. Data on sentence lengths for this type of disposal are not available. In 2006, there is one additional offender for whom the sentence length is not available.

Source:
NIO Statistics and Research Branch

Table 3: number convicted of burglary in a non-dwelling, the number sentenced to immediate custody and the average custodial sentence length (in months) 2002-06

	Number convicted	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Number for which sentence length data are available*[1]	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*
2002	295	118	113	6.5
2003	290	131	121	7.8
2004	285	118	115	8.0
2005	217	83	78	7.9
2006	225	90	86	8.8

[1] The difference in the number sentenced to immediate custody and number for which sentencing data are available relates to the number sentenced to Juvenile Justice Centre orders. Data on sentence lengths for this type of disposal are not available.

Source:
NIO Statistics and Research Branch

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208088]

Paul Goggins: Northern Ireland Office staff are requested to minimise energy waste by turning off their computers and monitors at the end of each working day. Guidance on closing down personal computers correctly has been issued to staff via the NIO Intranet.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether it is his policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials in his Department, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment he has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207438]

Paul Goggins: Departments deal with requests for information on a case-by-case basis, applying exemptions where it is necessary and appropriate to do so. Any request for officials' home addresses would be handled in this way.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many staff were employed in his Department in each year since 1978, broken down by grade; [207747]

(2) how many staff in his Department were members of the *(a)* Home Civil Service and *(b)* Northern Ireland Civil Service in each year since 1978; [207748]

(3) how many staff in his Department worked part-time or on a job-share basis in each of the last 10 years. [207749]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is available for the last six years and is set out in the following table. It could be obtained for earlier years only at disproportionate costs.

						Number
Staff type	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
SCS	48	48	50	47	47	47
Grade A	146	164	168	188	186	194
Grade B1	169	194	203	216	266	287
Grade B2	246	255	268	265	257	232
Grade C	397	425	464	453	448	459
Grade D1	437	457	493	564	583	573
Grade D2	280	263	270	333	262	270
Industrial	6	6	6	9	28	31
NICS	1,550	1,631	1,752	1,923	1,930	1,960
HCS	179	181	170	152	147	133
Full-time	1,548	1,608	1,695	1,830	1,827	1,840
Part-time or job share	181	204	227	245	250	253

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the cost was of *(a)* salaries paid in respect of permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries paid in respect of permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department in each month since May 2005; [199883]

(2) how many *(a)* permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199884]

Mr. Woodward: Information on the number of staff within the Northern Ireland Office in each month since May 2005 is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following tables provide a snapshot of the position in specific months for which figures are available. The information supplied in relation to temporary staff does not include agency staff as they are not paid via the Northern Ireland Office payroll.

No staff have been employed within the Northern Ireland Office as *(b)* permanent non-civil servants within the timescales specified.

Table A

	Permanent civil services posts (full-time equivalent posts)
May 2005	1,801.5
April 2006	1,957.5
April 2007	1,953

Source:
Figures taken from monthly manpower figures.

Table B

	Posts filled by temporary staff
May 2005	48
April 2006	62
April 2007	30

Table C

	Salaries paid to permanent and temporary staff (£)
May 2005	4,735,607.81
April 2006	5,062,393.03
April 2007	5,221,924.87

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in his Department in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207477]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows:

(a) All staff

In 2007-08, £557,000 was paid to all staff in the Department and its agencies as end-of-year performance bonuses.

(b) Senior civil service

In 2007-08, of the aforementioned amount at *(a)*, £298,650 was paid to SCS staff as end-of-year performance bonuses.

The aforementioned payments were made to a total of 364 staff in the 2007-08 financial year, and related to performance in the 2006-07 reporting year. These bonuses, which are non-consolidated and non-pensionable, are used to reward excellent performance throughout the year, and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to ensure that Northern Ireland-based civil servants in his Department who are entitled to take up added years or additional voluntary contributions are aware of how to apply. [207728]

Mr. Woodward: Circulars are issued to existing staff by our pension providers whenever new information becomes available. Staff were informed in November 2007 of the withdrawal of the facility to top up pension benefits by buying added years of pensionable service from 1 March 2008, and provided with details on the introduction of added pension from the same date.

Existing staff have been advised that information about the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, including information on additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) is available on the following websites:

www.civilservicepensions-ni.gov.uk

for Northern Ireland Civil Servants and

www.civilservicepensions.co.uk

for Home Civil Servants.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are taken to ensure that at the commencement of employment in his Department staff are informed of the benefits of additional voluntary schemes. [207729]

Mr. Woodward: All new entrants are provided with a pension pack at the commencement of their employment which includes information on additional voluntary contributions and refers them to the information contained on the following websites:

www.civilservicepensions-ni.gov.uk

for Northern Ireland Civil Servants and

www.civilservicepensions.co.uk

for Home Civil Servants.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of his Department's staff in the salary ranges of *(a)* up to £15,000 per annum, *(b)* between £15,001 and £30,000 per annum, *(c)* between £30,001 and £50,000 per annum and *(d)* over £50,000 per annum participated in additional voluntary contributions schemes in the most recent period for which figures are available. [207730]

Mr. Woodward: In 2007-08, 3.1 per cent. of the Department participated in additional voluntary contributions schemes, the numbers of which are broken down as follows:

(a) Up to £15,000: 6 staff;

(b) £15,001 to £30,000: 25 staff;

(c) £30,001 to £50,000: 23 staff;

(d) Over £50,000: 6 staff.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205842]

Mr. Woodward: The following table displays the amount the Northern Ireland Office and its Executive agencies has spent on *(a)* written consultation, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years:

£

	Written consultation	*Consultation roadshows*	*Stakeholder focus groups*
2005-06	4,218.95	—	6,032.25
2006-07	30,326.24	2,344.78	16,375.02
2007-08	16,426.07	2,875.30	6,878.00

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206220]

Mr. Woodward: In each of the last three years the Northern Ireland Office and executive agencies have contracted the following consultants to conduct public participation activities:

	Consultant contracted to conduct the public participation activity	*Cost of contract to date (£)*
2005-06	NI Youth Forum	2,516.44
2006-07	NI Youth Forum	3,130.00
	Deloitte[1]	53,000.00
2007-08	NI Youth Forum	1,007.00
	Milward Brown Ulster	21,385.00

[1] This company was contracted to carry out a customer satisfaction survey which involved meeting members of the public.

Deportation: Northern Ireland

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals received a recommendation for deportation by the sentencing judge in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [206896]

Paul Goggins: Data are available only from 1 October 2006. Between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007, six persons received a recommendation for deportation.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons were convicted of domestic abuse offences in *(a)* A District Command Unit area, *(b)* B District Command Unit area and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and what average sentence was imposed. [207755]

Paul Goggins: At present specific information on domestic assaults is not included in court conviction and sentencing data. It is not possible, therefore, to separate domestic violence from other violent offences.

It is, however, possible to give the number convicted of offences which, by their definition, relate to domestic violence. Specifically for the requested policing districts these are: 'breach of non-molestation order' and 'breach of occupation order'. Conviction and sentencing data for these offences are documented in Tables 1 and 2 for Policing District A, Tables 3 and 4 for Policing District B and Tables 5 and 6 for Northern Ireland. An additional domestic violence offence of "breach of exclusion requirement' is documented in Table 7 for Northern Ireland.

A wider range of information on the incidence and impact of domestic violence is available from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/experience_of_domestic_violence_findings_from_the_2005_northern_ireland_crime_survey.pdf

and from PSNI statistics at:

http://www.psni.police.uk/2._domestic_incidents_and_crimes-5.pdf.

Data are only available from 2000 onwards and the data in the following tables cover the calendar years 2000 to 2006 (the latest available years). Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number of convictions, number sentenced to immediate custody and average sentence length (in months) for 'breach of non-molestation order' for Policing District A 2000-06

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number of convictions	31	33	21	30	32	32	32
Number sentenced to immediate custody	14	6	1	7	3	3	3
Average sentence length (in months)	2.1	2.2	2.0	4.9	6.0	1.7	1.5

Table 2: Number of convictions, number sentenced to immediate custody and average sentence length (in months) for 'breach of occupation order' for Policing District A 2000-06

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number of convictions	2	6	9	3	2	2	2
Number sentenced to immediate custody	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Average sentence length (in months)	0	3.0	1.0	0.5	0	0	0

Table 3: Number of convictions, number sentenced to immediate custody and average sentence length (in months) for 'breach of non-molestation order' for Policing District B 2000-06

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number of convictions	15	16	22	23	37	27	12
Number sentenced to immediate custody	7	0	1	2	3	1	0
Average sentence length (in months)	1.5	0	1.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	0

Table 4: Number of convictions, number sentenced to immediate custody and average sentence length (in months) for 'breach of occupation order' for Policing District B 2000-06

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number of convictions	2	1	3	4	6	0	1
Number sentenced to immediate custody	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Average sentence length (in months)	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0

Table 5: Number of convictions, number sentenced to immediate custody and average sentence length (in months) for 'breach of non-molestation order' for Northern Ireland 2000-06

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number of convictions	188	219	236	239	255	253	245
Number sentenced to immediate custody	35	20	17	22	24	24	26
Average sentence length (in months)	2.0	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.4	1.9	2.6

[1] Average sentence length in 2003 excludes one sentenced to juvenile justice centre order.

Table 6: Number of convictions, number sentenced to immediate custody and average sentence length (in months) for 'breach of occupation order' for Northern Ireland 2000-06.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of convictions	26	34	48	36	37	25	21
Number sentenced to immediate custody	3	3	3	2	4	3	3
Average sentence length (in months)	3.0	2.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.3

Table 7: Number of convictions, number sentenced to immediate custody and average sentence length (in months) for 'breach of exclusion requirement5 for Northern Ireland 2000-06[1]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of convictions	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Number sentenced to immediate custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average sentence length (in months)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] There were no convictions for this offence in Policing Districts A or B

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons were convicted of drink-driving offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [207743]

Paul Goggins: Tables 1 and 2 give the number convicted for drink/drug related driving offences by age group and gender respectively.

Data cover the calendar years 1997 to 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: number of convictions for drink/drug related driving offences[1] *by age group 1997-06*

	Age group								
	10 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 and over	Missing[2]	Total
1997	18	463	402	715	456	204	76	16	2,350
1998	19	512	398	725	459	159	88	19	2,379
1999	20	598	452	780	450	242	77	19	2,638
2000	22	582	384	720	446	249	77	1	2,481
2001	15	469	300	588	438	223	80	0	2,113
2002	19	509	330	611	483	209	91	1	2,253
2003	14	533	352	722	554	272	121	0	2,568
2004	21	533	341	733	640	287	124	0	2,679
2005	29	556	404	723	614	338	137	6	2,807
2006	13	563	420	752	632	312	111	6	2,809

[1] It is not possible to separate out drug-related offences from alcohol-related offences for the offences of 'driving when unfit through drink or drugs', 'driving while under the influence of drink or drugs', 'attempting to drive while under the influence of drink or drugs' and 'in charge of a vehicle when under the influence of drink or drugs'. These data are included in the table.

[2] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom age information is not available.

Table 2: number of convictions for drink/drug related driving offences[1] *by gender 1997-06*

	Male	Female	Total
1997	2,127	223	2,350
1998	2,120	259	2,379
1999	2,388	250	2,638
2000	2,223	258	2,481
2001	1,857	256	2,113
2002	1,971	282	2,253
2003	2,229	339	2,568
2004	2,346	333	2,679
2005	2,418	389	2,807
2006	2,447	362	2,809

[1] It is not possible to separate out drug-related offences from alcohol-related offences for the offences of 'driving when unfit through drink or drugs', 'driving while under the influence of drink or drugs' 'attempting to drive while under the influence of drink or drugs' and 'in charge of a vehicle when under the influence of drink or drugs'. These data are included in the table.

Hillsborough Castle: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the public purse was of food and drink provided in Hillsborough Castle as a consequence of its use as a ministerial residence in the last 12 months. [193183]

Mr. Woodward: It is not possible to separately identify the cost of food and drink consumed by Ministers when residing at Hillsborough Castle from the overall departmental expenditure for hospitality.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times he has used his official ministerial residence in Hillsborough Castle since his appointment. [193184]

Mr. Woodward: Accommodation in Hillsborough Castle is made available to me as a residence while in Northern Ireland. The Castle is also Her Majesty the

Queen's residence in the province, is used as a conference centre, hosts charity fund raising events and is open to the public.

Official residences are assigned to Ministers by the Prime Minister either on grounds of security or in order to allow them to perform better their official duties. Rules on the use of official residences are set out in the "Ministerial Code".

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Sick Leave

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days off work due to stress-related illnesses there were on average among police personnel in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2007. [206251]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer.

The average number of working days lost for stress related illnesses in 2002-03 and 2007-08 can be found in the following table.

	Average working days lost in 2002-03	*Average working days lost in 2007-08*
Police officers	5.42	2.25
Civil servants (police staff)	2.2	1.3
Direct recruits (police staff)	1.1	1.3

Prisoner Release: Foreigners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals were released from prison in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [206893]

Paul Goggins: Prior to July 2006 statistics are only available on those foreign national prisoners released from Northern Ireland prisons who were serving a sentence of 12 months or more. (This was in line with the requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Department.)

According to NIPS records between January 2000 to January 2004, nine foreign national prisoners in this category were released, of whom four were released into IND custody for consideration for removal or deportation, following notification of IND by the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Between January 2004 and June 2006, 16 foreign national prisoners of this category were released, of whom seven were similarly released into IND custody.

Between July 2006 and June 2007 26 foreign national prisoners, whether sentenced or remand, were released, of whom 21 were released into IND custody for consideration for removal or deportation. Of the remainder:

72 were released time served;

96 were released on bail;

25 were discharged by the court;

11 were released fine paid;

One was released by hospital order.

From July 2007 to April 2008, 242 foreign national prisoners were released of whom 41 were released to the Borders and Immigration Agency for consideration for removal or deportation. Of the remainder:

101 were released time served;

72 were released on bail;

18 were discharged by the court;

Eight were released fine paid;

Two were released by hospital order.

These figures include immigration detainees held on immigration warrants.

Suicide: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people committed suicide in Belfast North constituency in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex; and how many of these deaths involved the use of firearms. [207678]

Paul Goggins: Information on deaths, including suicides, is held by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, which is an agency within the Department of Finance and Personnel within the Northern Ireland Executive.

JUSTICE

Bail

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants were charged with violence against the person, sexual offences or robbery in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; how many and what proportion of those so charged were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused bail; and what condition of schedule 1 of the Bail Act 1976 was cited as the reason not to grant bail in each case for which such information is available. [206495]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against for violence against the person offences, sexual offences and robbery in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2006 is in table 1. Charging data are not collected centrally by my Department; data relating to those defendants proceeded against have been supplied instead.

Data showing the number of defendants remanded on bail by the courts for offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery, in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be found in table 2. The data include those held in custody at any stage during proceedings. Bail data broken down by offence group prior to 2004 are not collated centrally. The bail data supplied relate to the offence at the outcome of court proceedings, which may differ from the original charged offence. These data are taken from the 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales' publications, 2004-06.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

It is not possible to provide information on the proportion of those proceeded against who were bailed, as the data to compile the proportion are on different bases, and therefore are not comparable. Data on the number of persons refused bail and the reasons for refusal are not collected by my Department.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for violence against the person offences, sexual offences and robbery, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1, 2]

	Offence type		
	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery
1997	70,561	7,028	10,781
1998	75,243	7,763	10,450
1999	75,315	7,817	10,321
2000	75,502	7,263	12,142
2001	76,706	8,424	14,871
2002	78,446	9,102	15,644
2003	79,612	9,121	13.732
2004	71,752	9,579	12,404
2005	68,172	9,711	12,526
2006	64,763	9,074	13,226

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database.

Table 2: Estimated number of persons remanded on bail for selected offence groups, at magistrates or the Crown court, England and Wales, 2004-06[1]

Type of offence	Total number bailed at all courts[2, 3] (thousand)
Violence against the person[4]	
2004	71.8
2005	67.1
2006	64.8
Sexual offences[4]	
2004	10.8
2005	10.5
2006	10.1
Robbery[4]	
2004	10.6
2005	9.3
2006	9.8

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Includes those also held in custody at some stage and those failing to appear to bail.

[3] Excludes defendants reported as failing to appear to a summons although some of these cases, having been initiated by a summons may have resulted in the defendant being remanded on bail.

[4] The offence is that which the defendant is acquitted or convicted of, which may differ from the original offence the defendant was charged with.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* defendants released on bail and *(b)* defendants charged with violence against the person, sexual offences or robbery and then released on bail (i) failed to turn up for sentencing and (ii) broke their bail conditions in other ways in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [206496]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the estimated number of persons remanded on bail by the courts, and subsequently failing to appear to bail at court, in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 (latest available) can be found in the following table. The data include those held in custody at some stage during proceedings. A breakdown by offence group is available only for 2004 onwards. These data are taken from the 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales' publications, 1997-2006.

Data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform does not distinguish between those failing to appear at court for sentencing and those failing to appear at court at other stages during proceedings. Additionally, the data do not identify other breaches of bail conditions.

Estimated number of persons remanded on bail and failing to appear, at magistrates or the Crown court, 1997-2006[1], England and Wales

Type of offence	Total number bailed at all courts[2, 3] (thousand)	Number failing to appear to bail (thousand)	Percentage of those bailed failing to appear
Violence against the person[4]			
2004	71.8	6.5	9
2005	67.1	5.7	8
2006	64.8	5.5	9
Sexual offences[4]			
2004	10.8	0.5	4
2005	10.5	0.5	5
2006	10.1	0.5	5
Robbery[4]			
2004	10.6	0.8	8
2005	9.3	0.7	7
2006	9.8	0.7	7
All offences			
1997	601.4	68.5	11

Estimated number of persons remanded on bail and failing to appear, at magistrates or the Crown court, 1997-2006[1], England and Wales

Type of offence	*Total number bailed at all courts[2, 3] (thousand)*	*Number failing to appear to bail (thousand)*	*Percentage of those bailed failing to appear*
1998	640.2	74.9	12
1999	593.7	73.9	12
2000	583.1	72.7	12
2001	598.7	77.7	13
2002	585.5	87.3	15
2003	598.7	83.7	14
2004	633.0	83.8	13
2005	590.0	72.3	12
2006	562.3	67.2	12

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Includes those also held in custody at some stage and those failing to appear to bail.

[3] Excludes defendants reported as failing to appear to a summons although some of these cases, having been initiated by a summons may have resulted in the defendant being remanded on bail.

[4] The offence is that which the defendant is acquitted or convicted of, which may differ from the original offence the defendant was charged with.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders released on bail in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available were *(a)* originally charged with and *(b)* subsequently sentenced for offences of violence against the person, sexual offences or robbery. [206498]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number and proportion of defendants remanded on bail for offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery, in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be found in the following table. The data include those held in custody at any stage during proceedings. Bail data broken down by offence group prior to 2004 are not collated centrally. These data are taken from the "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales" publications, 2004-06.

Data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform records the offence at the outcome of court proceedings, which may differ from the original charged offence. Bail data are not collated separately for defendants who are sentenced for specific offence groups. The figures given relate to all defendants, whether convicted and sentenced or acquitted.

Estimated number and proportion of persons remanded on bail for selected offence groups, at magistrates or the Crown court, England and Wales, 2004-06[1]

Type of offence	*Total number bailed at all courts[2, 3] (thousand)*	*Percentage of all those bailed for all offences*
Violence against the person[4]		
2004	71.8	11.3
2005	67.1	11.4
2006	64.8	11.5
Sexual offences[4]		
2004	10.8	1.7
2005	10.5	1.8
2006	10.1	1.8
Robbery[4]		
2004	10.6	1.7
2005	9.3	1.6
2006	9.8	1.7
All offences		
2004	633.0	100
2005	590.0	100
2006	562.3	100

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Includes those also held in custody at some stage and those failing to appear to bail.

[3] Excludes defendants reported as failing to appear to a summons although some of these cases, having been initiated by a summons may have resulted in the defendant being remanded on bail.

[4] The offence is that which the defendant is acquitted or convicted of, which may differ from the original offence the defendant was charged with.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants granted bail in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available *(a)* had previous convictions for violence against the person, sexual offences or robbery, *(b)* had committed previous offences while on bail, *(c)* had committed offences while on early or temporary release on licence from prison, *(d)* were convicted but unsentenced offenders and *(e)* were convicted of offences which passed the custodial threshold but were as yet unsentenced. [206500]

Maria Eagle: Court proceedings data held by my Department do not identify the criminal history of defendants granted bail, or whether persons were on bail at the time of committing an offence.

The court may withhold bail if it is satisfied that there are substantial grounds for believing that, if released on bail, the defendant would abscond, commit an offence, interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice. In making its decision the court must consider all the circumstances of the case as appear to be relevant. The nature of the alleged offence is only one factor, and the others include the weight of the evidence against the defendant, the defendant's character, antecedents, associations, community ties and past record of complying with bail, as well as any other factors which appear relevant to the court.

British Nationality

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which proposals in Lord Goldsmith's citizenship review report have been accepted by the Government; and if he will make a statement. [206823]

Mr. Straw: Lord Goldsmith's review of citizenship made a significant contribution to the current debate about modernising our constitution and is an important step towards clarifying the legal and social rights and responsibilities that come with British citizenship.

The Government are currently considering proposals in the context of their wider reforms, including proposals set out in the Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship', published on 20 February and forthcoming work on a possible Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and a Statement of Values.

Chelmsford Prison: Drugs

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 269, on Chelmsford prison: drugs, what the reasons are for the reduction in the rate of those tested positive for drugs in Chelmsford prison between 2003-04 and 2007-08. [207707]

Mr. Hanson: Prisons have in place a comprehensive drug strategy:

> reducing supply, through security measures and drug testing programmes;
>
> reducing demand, through targeted treatment interventions for low, moderate and severe drug-misusers; and
>
> establishing effective through-care links to ensure continuity of treatment post-release in order to safeguard the gains made in custody.

The close integration of measures makes it difficult to identify specific elements that lead to a reduction in drug misuse.

Chelmsford prison has over the past five years achieved a commendable reduction in the level of drug misuse as measured by random mandatory drug testing—down 73 per cent. Chelmsford prison runs a dedicated search team which utilises hand held body scanners plus other searching aids, including a trained and licensed mobile telephone detection dog, which have proved effective detecting drugs and mobile phones. It has received an award from Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team in 2005-6 for its outstanding work with drug treatment.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether it is Government policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials in the Prime Minister's office, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment he has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207217]

Mr. Straw: Departments deal with requests for information on a case-by-case basis, applying exemptions where it is necessary and appropriate to do so. Any request for officials' home addresses would be handled in this way.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205179]

Maria Eagle: Information on how much was spent on translation services and interpreters in different languages is not separately recorded and could be ascertained only at a disproportional cost.

Total costs spent on translation services and interpreters for each part of the Department in 2007-08 are as follows:

MoJ HQ (including former DCA)

Translation Services: £272,877

Interpreters: £22,652,683

The majority of MoJ HQ spend on interpreters is for the payments made from central legal aid fund to interpreters in defence cases.

HMCS

HMCS spent £200,000 on translation services. HMCS would only be able to identify spend on interpreters at a disproportionate cost.

Tribunals

Translation Services: £5,552

Interpreters: £5,057,554

OPG

The OPG only use one natural account code to capture expenditure on translation services and interpreters and there is no split between different languages. The total for that account for the 2007-08 financial year was £65,500.

OCJR

OCJR spent £448 on translation services and nothing on interpreters.

NOMS Centre

NOMS spent £32,000 on interpreters. NOMS do not separately identify expenditure on translation services within their accounts and data may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

HMPS

The Prison Service does not record this information to the degree of detail required to answer this question. Spend on translation services is captured as Professional Advice. This category of spend also captures other professional advice such as legal fees etc. Even to collate an estimate of likely spend, would involve asking all prison and HQ units to check contracts and or invoices, these individual returns would then need to be collated and checked for reasonableness at the centre. The cost of this sort of exercise could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

House of Lords: Reform

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish plans for reform of the House of Lords. [207177]

Mr. Straw: The Government expect to publish a White Paper on House of Lords reform before the summer recess.

Judges: Housing

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances are judges' lodgings made available to members of the judiciary; what criteria apply to their allocation; and if he will make a statement. [207574]

Mr. Straw: Judges' lodgings are available to High Court judges when they are away from the Royal Courts of Justice dealing with business on any of the (six) judicial circuits in England and Wales. The allocation of judicial business is managed by the regional directors office responsible for the circuit in question, in consultation with the relevant senior presiding judge. In addition, lodgings can and are made available to circuit judges and barristers sitting as deputy High Court judges and circuit judges sitting in their own capacity away from their own court(s).

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which holders of judicial posts are provided with official residences; and if he will make a statement. [207656]

Mr. Straw: No holders of judicial posts are provided with official residences.

Offenders: Electronic Tagging

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each age cohort were subject to an electronic tagging order in each of the last three years. [206941]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the number of occasions a curfew with electronic monitoring was ordered by the Courts in England and Wales in each of the last three financial years, broken down by Juveniles (aged 10 to 17) and Adults (aged 18 and over). Data on more specific age ranges is not routinely collected, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The table does not include those released from prison on Home Detention Curfew or on licence with curfew condition.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Adult curfews			
Bail	2,115	8,875	14,710
Community sentence	22,369	28,778	38,785
Total	24,484	37,653	53,495
Juvenile curfews			
Bail	6,433	9,452	10,226
Community sentence	8,418	9,805	10,975
Total	14,851	19,257	21,201
Total orders	39,335	56,910	74,696

The data is based on monthly statistical returns provided to the Ministry of Justice by the electronic monitoring suppliers Serco and G4S.

Open Prisons

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in open prisons in England and Wales were convicted of *(a)* offences of violence, *(b)* sexual offences or *(c)* offences of supplying illegal drugs. [206878]

Mr. Straw: At the end of March 2008 there were *(a)* 1,240 prisoners serving sentences for violence against the person offences, *(b)* 50 prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences, and *(c)* 1,270 prisoners serving sentences for drugs offences in prison establishments in England and Wales whose main function is as an open prison.

Open prisons house category D prisoners. These are prisoners whose risk of absconding is considered to be low and who have been assessed as posing a low risk of harm to the public. Within this population are long term prisoners coming towards the end of their sentence who, over time, have substantially reduced their level of risk and who would benefit from the regime available in an open prison as part of their preparation for eventual release.

It is not possible to show the number serving sentences for specific types of drug offences as the data is not accurate to this level.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and the figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the Government plan to uprate the upper limit of £500,000 compensation that can be received by victims of violent crime under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme; [206819]

(2) whether the Government intend to amend the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme to reflect the severity of injuries suffered by victims of terrorist attacks in England, Scotland and Wales. [206820]

Mr. Straw: The Government are considering the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and will make an announcement in due course. The Great Britain's Scheme is the most generous within the European Union and, probably, the world.

Peter Sutcliffe

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to ensure that Peter Sutcliffe is never released from imprisonment; and if he will make a statement. [207202]

Mr. Straw: No mandatory life sentence prisoner convicted of murder can be considered for release until they have served their "tariff" or "minimum term", i.e. the period of imprisonment considered necessary for the requirements of retribution and deterrence. The release of all tariff expired life and indeterminate sentenced prisoners, including those detained in special hospitals as well as in prisons, is now a matter for the independent Parole Board. The Parole Board can direct a lifer's release on or after tariff expiry, only if it is satisfied that the prisoner no longer poses a risk of serious harm to the public. Where a whole life tariff has been set, the Parole Board cannot determine the question of release.

Under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the responsibility for setting minimum terms in mandatory lifer cases transferred from the Home Secretary to the courts. Transitional arrangements in the Act allow any existing mandatory life sentence lifer whose tariff has been set by Ministers or whose tariff has not yet been set, to apply to have a tariff set or re-set by the High Court. It is understood that Peter Sutcliffe has submitted representations to the High Court under those transitional processes. In fact, no tariff was set by Ministers in this case.

It is a matter for the High Court to determine the tariff in Mr. Sutcliffe's case. If the court fixes a whole life tariff, then his case cannot be referred to the Parole Board for consideration of release. Mr. Sutcliffe was transferred to Broadmoor hospital in 1984 and has remained there ever since. For as long as he remains lawfully detained in hospital under Mental Health Act powers, and meets the Mental Health Act criteria for detention, his release cannot be considered by the Parole Board, even in the event that he received a determinate tariff by the High Court.

Prison Service: Labour Turnover

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Prison Governors' Association on the turnover of prison governors. [204284]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Governors' Association have not requested any discussion with the Secretary of State or ministerial colleagues regarding the turnover of prison governors and have not raised this area in any recorded correspondence. However, National Offender Management Service officials maintain an ongoing dialogue with PGA representatives, and are willing to discuss with the PGA any views or concerns it may have on this issue.

Prisoner Release

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have opted out of or failed to apply for *(a)* end of custody licence and *(b)* home detention curfew in each year since these schemes were initiated. [206824]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the number of prisoners who, according to the Prison Service IT system, were potentially eligible for the home detention curfew (HDC) scheme and who opted out in each year since the scheme began on 28 January 1999:

	Number who opted out
1999	1,500
2000	5,700
2001	7,800
2002	6,300
2003	5,100
2004	3,900
2005	3,500
2006	3,200

Data are not held as to why prisoners have opted out of being considered for HDC. However, among the most likely reasons are that the prisoner cannot provide details of a release address or will consider that that he/she is highly unlikely to pass the risk assessment and so does not bother to apply.

Information on the number of people who opt out of the end of custody licence scheme is not recorded.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoner Release: Foreigners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners have been released on end of custody licence. [206821]

Mr. Straw: Foreign national prisoners who will be subject to deportation at the end of their sentence are not eligible for release under the End of Custody Licence scheme. I refer the hon. Member to the regular publication 'End of Custody Licence: releases and recalls', copies of which are available from the Library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Between 29 June 2007 and 31 March 2008, there were 23,716 releases from all prisons in England and Wales under the End of Custody Licence Scheme. Of these, 1,384 were foreign national prisoners (6 per cent.) not liable for deportation, consisting of 767 EU nationals and 617 non EU nationals.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoner Transfers

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maximum time is for which a prisoner may be confined in a prisoner transport vehicle without a break. [202509]

Maria Eagle: For long journeys, the maximum time that escort contractors can confine a prisoner in a prisoner transport vehicle without a break is two and a half hours. If a journey is scheduled to take less than two and a half hours but is delayed due to road conditions, prisoners are offered a comfort stop where this is practical and possible.

Prisoners: Foreigners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners held in Category D prisons were convicted of *(a)* Class A drug trafficking, *(b)* terrorist offences and *(c)* violent offences. [196835]

Mr. Straw: It is not possible to check all offences for any association with terrorism without exceeding cost limits, and it is not possible to provide a breakdown of drug offences by class of drug.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those convicted under terrorist legislation and those convicted under other legislation but following a terrorist investigation. As soon as this is complete a statistical bulletin to cover information on arrests and convictions will be published.

The total number of foreign national prisoners held in open prisons, at the end of December 2007, by all offence categories, is shown in the following table.

	Number
Violence against the person	40
Sex offences	10
Robbery	20
Burglary	[1]—
Theft and Handling	10
Fraud and Forgery	20
Drug offences	80
Motoring	10
Other offences	20
Total	210

[1] Fewer than 10.

Note:

Data have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Establishment classified as open are Askham Grange, East Sutton Park (with open YOI unit), Ford, Hewell Grange, Hollesley Bay (with open YOI unit), Kirkham, Leyhill, Moorland open (with open YOI unit), North Sea Camp, Spring Hill, Standford Hill, Sudbury, Thorn Cross and Usk/Prescoed.

In addition to these establishments, Drake Hall, Morton Hall, Norwich, Reading and Wealstun prisons have small open units but population data is not available at this level.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Self-Mutilation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many instances of self-harm by women prisoners were recorded in each year since 2000, broken down by establishment; and if he will make a statement. [204373]

Maria Eagle: As a new system for recording self-harm was introduced in December 2002 and only bedded down over the course of 2003, figures before and after 2003 are not comparable. Under the new system a wider range of incidents are captured. The information requested is presented in the following tables.

As the presence or absence of serial self-harmers in a prison can account for a disproportionate number of self-harm incidents, rises or falls in the numbers of such incidents from one year to the next is not a good indicator of underlying trends at individual prisons.

Table 1: Self-harm incidents using F213SH (not directly comparable with earlier years)

Prison	*2003*[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Askham Grange	1	0	2	1	0
Brockhill[2]	674	475	278	252	[3]—
Bronzefield	[3]—	274	831	1,165	1,736
Buckley Hall[2]	765	1,082	597	•	•

Table 1: Self-harm incidents using F213SH (not directly comparable with earlier years)

Prison	*2003*[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bullwood Hall[2]	659	1,065	1,584	305	2
Cookham Wood	158	163	197	144	216
Downview	185	71	362	282	255
Drake Hall	18	23	44	22	56
Durham[2]	317	241	56	*	*
East Sutton Park	0	0	0	0	1
Eastwood Park	789	1,163	2,597	2,147	1,992
Edmunds Hill[3]	156	207	*	*	*
Foston Hall	185	614	774	614	1,166
Holloway	958	1,184	1,402	1,475	1,104
Low Newton	381	800	1,129	746	984
Morton Hall	63	50	49	81	60
New Hall	1,689	1,125	1,065	1,266	1,191
Peterborough	[3]—	[3]—	823	1,129	888
Send	78	78	97	200	155
Styal	376	1,061	1,416	1,581	1,312
Winchester[2]	38	14	*	*	*

Table 2: Self-harm incidents pre-F213SH (not directly comparable with later years)

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*[1]
Askham Grange	0	0	1
Brockhill[2]	118	138	377
Buckley Hall[2]	*	*	215
BullwoodHall[2]	49	9	17
Cookham Wood	9	29	110
Downview	0	1	57
Drake Hall	4	0	30
Durham[2]	129	248	161
East Sutton Park	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	33	213	341
Edmunds Hill[3]	0	0	0
Foston Hall	4	3	138
Holloway	245	604	907
Low Newton	22	107	284
Morton Hall	0	10	28
New Hall	124	329	357
Send	8	17	33
Styal	125	189	137
Winchester[2]	0	0	14

[1] Transition year when F213SH implementation taking place.

[2] These prisons have changed function between female and male in the period in question: * denotes years when females were decanted from prisons changing function.

[3] Prison not yet open.

Notes:

1. The self-harm incidents quoted are establishment but not age specific and will include adult women and those under 18 years old.
2. The numbers of self-harm incidents reported in the table are based on information supplied by prisons through the prisons Incident Reporting System. Due to high volume this is subject to technical and recording problems, and whilst the system provides an indication of the scale of self-harm the numbers should not be treated as absolute.
3. The numbers refer to incidents not people. Overall self-harm figures tend to be dominated by serial self-harmers. A significant proportion of self-harm is by the same prisoners on more than one occasion and these individuals account for a disproportionate number of incidents.

Prisons

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals have been detected attempting to break into prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [206822]

Mr. Straw: The data shown in table 1 concern the number of individuals recorded on the National Offender Management Service Incident Reporting System who have been detected attempting to break into prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years. As multiple individuals were involved in some instances, data have also been provided for the number of incidents.

Table 1: Number of individuals recorded on the National Offender Management Service Incident Reporting System who have been detected attempting to break into prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years

	Individuals involved	*Total incidents*
2003-04	5	3
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	11	7
2006-07	7	4
2007-08	19	12
Total	42	26

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Of the 42 individuals identified as attempting to break into a prison, there is only one recorded instance of a member of the public managing to break into a closed prison. A breakdown of all the types of incidents where an individual has attempted to break into a prison is shown in table 2.

Table 2: A break down of all the types of incidents where an individual has attempted to break into a prison

Type of incident	*Number of individuals involved*
Gained access to a closed establishment	1
Gained or attempted access to an open establishment	25
Individuals attempting access using a ladder against a wall or fence	13
Individuals trying to climb a fence or wall into a closed establishment	3

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Prisons: Electronic Surveillance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the discussions held between the hon. Member for Thurrock and his constituent Michael John Smith at Full Sutton Prison, York on 1 September 1999 and 30 July 2001 were covertly *(a)* recorded, *(b)* transmitted and *(c)* monitored in some other way by or on behalf of any Government Department or agency; and if he will make a statement. [205648]

Mr. Straw: It is not our policy to confirm or deny surveillance operations in prisons. Since the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000) came into force, all forms of covert surveillance are subject to a strict and rigorous statutory regime for authorisations, and are conducted in accordance with the guidance set out in the statutory Codes of Practice. Independent oversight is provided, and is overseen by the Office of Surveillance Commissioner. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal was established to investigate and rule on any complaints.

As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made clear in her statement on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 536, Sir Christopher Rose's inquiry into the surveillance of visits at Woodhill prison found

> "no trace in recent years in prison records or anywhere else of any person known to be a Member of Parliament having been monitored during a prison visit".

Probation: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes he plans to make to staffing levels in the Kent probation area; and if he will make a statement. [206847]

Mr. Hanson: In this financial year the Probation Service has received an extra £40 million. Kent's share in this was £1.2 million. This additional money, to support intensive work in the community with the most prolific offenders and increase Probation resource in courts to maintain sentencer confidence in community penalties, enabled the Kent Board to reconsider its previous position on compulsory redundancies.

This extra funding is in addition to an average 2.7 per cent. increase on the 2007-08 Probation budgets and on an average of an extra 5.4 per cent. in respect of approved premises.

Overall staffing levels in Kent probation increased by 7.4 per cent. between 2003 and 2007 (up 33.66 FTE to 488.50 FTE). Over the same period, staff in post increased by 12.6 per cent. in Probation Officer roles (up 18.75 FTE to 167.3 FTE) and 7.3 per cent. in Probation Services Officer roles (up 10.41 FTE to 153.7 FTE).

Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners sentenced for violence against the person, sexual offences, or robbery *(a)* re-offended after release and *(b)* were released on home detention curfew in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [206497]

Mr. Hanson: The number of adult prisoners discharged in the first quarters of 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 and sentenced for violence against the person, robbery or sexual offences who reoffended within one year of release are shown in the following table.

Total number of offenders, number of offenders that reoffended within one-year and one-year reoffending rates for violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 cohorts

	Q1				
	2000	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Violence					
Total number of offenders	2,661	2,518	2,460	2,813	2,959
Number of offenders that reoffend	1,004	1,035	985	1,097	1,137
Reoffending rate (percentage)	37.7	41.1	40.0	39.0	38.4
Robbery					
Total number of offenders	661	628	710	742	664
Number of offenders that reoffend	275	249	288	264	204
Reoffending rate (percentage)	41.6	39.6	40.6	35.6	30.7
Sexual					
Total number of offenders	353	347	355	456	486
Number of offenders that reoffend	54	49	53	61	74
Reoffending rate (percentage)	15.3	14.1	14.9	13.4	15.2

Further information on the latest reoffending statistics, and on frequency and severity of re-offending is given in the publication "Re-offending of adults: new measures of re-offending 2000-2005 England and Wales", available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/re-offending-adults-2000-05.pdf

Figures showing the numbers of prisoners released on home detention curfew from all prisons in England and Wales in each year since 1999 when HDC started can be found in the following table:

Original offence		*Released on home detention curfew*							
		1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Violence against the person	Numbers released	2,577	2,990	2,854	3,693	3,564	3,157	3,204	2,490
	Population in sentence length band	6,788	7,875	8,121	8,235	8,740	9,093	10,064	9,840
	Percentage released	38	38	35	45	41	35	32	25
Sexual Offences	Number released	24	29	17	20	8	6	2	0
	Population in sentence length band	1,120	1,326	1,197	1,193	1,238	1,162	1,236	1,203
	Percentage released	2	2	1	2	1	0.5164	0.1618	0
Robbery	Number released	598	689	631	916	1257	961	901	709
	Population in sentence length band	1,740	2,057	2,146	2,376	2,877	2,527	2,451	2,284
	Percentage released	34	33	29	37	44	38	37	31

The figures are taken from annual volumes of the publication "Offender Management Caseload Statistics" (previously "Prison Statistics England and Wales"). Figures on sex offenders for 2004 were provided by My hon. Friend the then Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Sutcliffe) to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 686-87W. Copies of these publications are available from the House of Commons Library and at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Since March 2001 offenders required to register under the Sex Offenders Act 1997 (now replaced by part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) have been statutorily excluded from HDC. Prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences that are not subject to registration are presumed unsuitable for HDC unless there are exceptional circumstances.

As noted in the footnote to published tables, the reasons for recall from home detention curfew are sometimes presented as the reason for the original imprisonment. Further investigations suggest that around 5 per cent. of offence types recorded do not relate to the offence for which they were sentenced and subsequently released on home detention curfew, but relate to offences committed after release from prison and before the licence expiry date for their sentence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and although shown to the last individual the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Terrorism: Prisoner Releases

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving a determinate sentence for a terrorism offence were released at the half-way point of their custodial sentence in the latest period for which figures are available. [200236]

Mr. Straw: All offenders who receive a standard determinate sentence are automatically released at the halfway point of their sentence and remain under licence, subject to recall if they breach licence conditions, for the remainder of their sentence, under the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Offenders who receive an indeterminate or extended sentence for a sexual or violent offence, are not automatically released, although an extended sentence prisoner may be released at the halfway point upon the Parole Board's discretion.

I am unaware of any proposals which have been put before either House by any member during proceedings on the Terrorism Act 2000, the Criminal Justice Act 2003, or other relevant Bills for there to be different and specific arrangements relating to the release of those convicted of terrorist related offences and sentencers are fully aware of the release arrangements when they hand down a sentence for any offence.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data on conviction under terrorist legislation and those under other legislation but following a terrorist investigation. As soon as this is complete a statistical bulletin to cover information on arrests and convictions will be published.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 158, how many prisoners convicted of terrorist offences and serving a determinate sentence under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 will be automatically released after serving half of their sentence. [203701]

Mr. Straw: All offenders who receive a standard determinate sentence are automatically released at the halfway point of their sentence and remain under licence, subject to recall if they breach licence conditions, for the remainder of their sentence, under Criminal Justice Act 2003. Offenders who receive an indeterminate or extended sentence for a sexual or violent offence, are not automatically released, although an extended sentence prisoner may be released at the halfway point upon the Parole Board's discretion.

I am unaware of any proposals which have been put before either House by any member during proceedings on the Terrorism Act 2000, the Criminal Justice Act 2003, or other relevant Bills for there to be different and specific arrangements relating to the release of those convicted of terrorist related offences and sentencers are fully aware of the release arrangements when they hand down a sentence for any offence.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) at Justice oral questions on 29 April that a wide range of offences are covered by the term terrorism. The most serious terrorists are generally sentenced to indeterminate sentences.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data on conviction under terrorist legislation and those under other legislation but following a terrorist investigation. As soon as this is complete a statistical bulletin to cover information on arrests and convictions will be published.

Terrorism: Sentencing

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of terrorism offences were given *(a)* determinate sentences, *(b)* indeterminate sentences for public protection and *(c)* life sentences, in each of the last five years. [200235]

Mr. Straw: The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those convicted under terrorist legislation and those convicted under other legislation but following a terrorist investigation. As soon as this is complete a statistical bulletin to cover information on arrests and convictions will be published.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Sir George Young: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer Question 203296 on possession actions by registered social landlords, tabled by the right hon. Member for North West Hampshire on 28 April 2008. [207829]

Bridget Prentice: I replied to the right hon. Member for North-West Hampshire's question on 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 319-20. I apologise for the delay.

Young Offenders: Alternatives to Prison

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of imposition of a *(a)* community rehabilitation order, *(b)* supervision order, *(c)* community punishment order, *(d)* attendance centre order, *(e)* curfew order, *(f)* reparation order, *(g)* action plan order and *(h)* referral order on a young offender per offender in the latest period for which figures are available. [207800]

Mr. Hanson: This information is provided in the following table.

Cost of community sentences for young people (per person)

Order	£
Community Rehabilitation Order	2,096
Supervision Order	4,059
Community Punishment Order	2,096
Attendance Centre Order	200
Curfew Order	[1]1,300
Reparation Order	1,458
Action Plan Order	1,458
Referral Order	1,879

[1] Cost given is the cost of a 90 day electronically monitored curfew. This figure includes a fixed set-up cost and daily monitoring charge, and is an average of all types of adult and juvenile monitoring (there is little variation between the two).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many representatives of his Department are based in *(a)* Kabul, *(b)* Kandahar and *(c)* Lashkar Gah. [207785]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: For security reasons the Department for International Development (DFID) does not publish details on the number and location of staff. However, DFID Afghanistan staff are spread across three locations: Kabul, Lashkar Gah and London.

Afghanistan: Humanitarian Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of attacks on UK aid workers which have taken place in Afghanistan in the most recent period for which figures are available. [206951]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Afghanistan NGO Security Office (ANSO) produces security reports aimed at the NGO community in Afghanistan that include details of security incidents involving NGOs. The reports do not disaggregate attacks by nationality. However, ANSO believes that no individual British aid worker has been involved in an attack by an armed opposition group in Afghanistan over the last 12 months. The latest armed attack on a UK-based NGO was in November 2007.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to the construction of a new mosque in Musa Qala in Helmand Province. [207462]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not providing any direct assistance to the construction of a new mosque in Musa Qala. The mosque is being delivered by the Government of Afghanistan's Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development with funding provided by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gah.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts worth more than £10,000 his Department has entered into with non-governmental organisations for projects in Helmand Province. [207787]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has entered in to one contract with a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for a development project in Helmand. The NGO, which would prefer to remain nameless for security reasons, received a grant of £999,447 to support an agricultural development programme which began in August 2007. In addition, DFID funding is supporting through the Government of Afghanistan the Bangladeshi NGO BRAC, to undertake community development and microfinance projects in Helmand, and the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) to establish credit unions.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that independent monitors are present in Burma to ensure that relief aid to Burma reaches its intended recipients; and if he will make a statement. [206766]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) emergency aid to Burma is going only to the UN, Red Cross and NGOs with experience working in humanitarian crises and in Burma. We have confidence in the monitoring mechanisms these partners have in place to ensure that DFID's emergency aid reaches its intended recipients. DFID maintains regular contact with the partners that it funds so that it is alerted as soon as possible to any problems they encounter with the delivery of aid. DFID is not channelling any assistance through the Government of Burma.

We have not had any confirmed reports of the diversion of aid. Our efforts are currently focussed on widening access for international aid workers which is a higher priority than getting access for monitors.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to provide aid relief to the victims of Cyclone Nargis. [207421]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the wake of Cyclone Nargis, the UK has already contributed £17 million for the humanitarian relief effort. This is being channelled through the UN, the Red Cross, and NGOs in Burma. We have logistics experts in Bangkok and Rangoon to help manage the delivery of relief supplies, as well as a six-person DFID emergency team deployed to Burma.

As part of this contribution, DFID has provided £5 million in logistical support and relief supplies and flat bottomed boats and engines to enable delivery of humanitarian assistance in the inland waters of the Irrawaddy Delta.

The Government have also had intensive diplomatic exchanges with key international partners, including Burma's regional friends such as China, India and Thailand, about what can be done to increase the delivery of international aid to victims of the cyclone and to persuade the Burmese authorities to allow greater access for humanitarian relief workers. We are strongly supportive of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) co-ordinating mechanism in Burma to distribute aid from the international community, agreed at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting on 19 May. We are encouraging the development of practical arrangements for ASEAN countries to deliver relief supplies directly to the affected areas.

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the likely humanitarian implications of sea level rise as a result of the melting of Greenland ice. [207960]

Mr. Thomas: The precise interplay between climate change, sea level rises and the effect on vulnerable people has not been fully explored, but it is clear that sea level rises will have a huge impact. The nature of that impact will vary from place to place, but might include widespread loss of life, homes and livelihoods, and mass migration in small island states such as Vanuatu or low-lying areas of countries such as Bangladesh. Furthermore, as noted by the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, developing countries often lack the financial and other resources to protect or relocate people living in low-lying zones; this can make their populations far more vulnerable than people living in similar physical locations in developed countries.

Climate change—including climate change adaptation—is one of the central themes of the Department for International Development's (DFID) new five-year research strategy. Meanwhile, the UK Government are already funding work to help communities affected by sea-level rises. For example, in Bangladesh the £50 million DFID is providing over eight years to help poor households in the Chars region had included (as of January 2008) raising 43,500 homesteads above 1998 flood levels. Also, in India DFID is part-funding a study by the US-based Institute for Social and Economic

Transition, which is setting out strategies for responding to the risks associated with climate change in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* economy class, *(b)* business class and *(c)* first class air travel in the period 1st April 2007 to 17th March 2008. [196257]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure on flights booked centrally for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 was £6,846,600, including economy class flights costing £1,254,979, business class flights costing £5,540,956 and first class flights costing £50,664. We cannot without incurring disproportionate costs specify precise expenditure as at 17 March 2008.

All air travel is undertaken in compliance with DFID staff rules which preclude use of first class travel, except by Ministers, officials accompanying them, and the most senior members of the senior civil service.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 322W, on departmental public participation, what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* number of respondents was for each listed piece of work. [204081]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

Company	*Piece of work*	*Date*	*Number of respondents*	*Cost excluding VAT (£)*
Solutions Strategy Research	Qualitative Research aimed at getting public opinions on ethical shopping, and the benefits it can bring to developing countries to inform, direct and provide a factual basis for communications activity. Conducted with focus groups over a four-week period; each group took approximately two hours, with 15 out of a total of 48 respondents having a follow-up telephone interview.	April to June 2007	48 (across six focus groups)	19,600
Taylor Nelson Sofres RSGB	Questions on omnibus survey to provide interim measure on concern about global poverty among UK adults to inform, direct, and provide a solid factual basis for communications on the work of DFID on fighting global poverty.	June 2007	2,014	5,940
Taylor Nelson Sofres	Annual attitudinal tracking survey into public perceptions of global poverty to inform, direct and provide a factual basis for communications on the work of DFID on fighting global poverty.	July 2007	2,051	47,500
ICM	Quantitative research survey to measure UK adults' interest in shopping ethically and the benefits that it can bring to developing countries to direct, inform and provide a factual basis for communications activity.	November 2007	2,010	8,844
Creative Research	Qualitative Stage of Audience Segmentation research to inform, direct and provide a factual basis for communications on the work of DFID. Conducted by focus group over a period of four weeks; each group lasted approximately two hours Delivered in depth analysis of different segment, attitudes and values.	January to February2008	112 (across 14 discussion groups)	52,895.62

Company	*Piece of work*	*Date*	*Number of respondents*	*Cost excluding VAT (£)*
Taylor Nelson Sofres RSGB	Quantitative research (questions on omnibus survey) to measure UK adults' interest in shopping ethically and the benefits that it can bring to developing countries to direct, inform and provide a factual basis for communications activity.	February 2008	2,072	7,400
Ipsos MORI	Quantitative Stage of Audience Segmentation research, to inform, direct and provide a factual basis for communications on the work of DFID. Extended analysis required to provide a detailed segmentation of the audience to ensure that communication efforts are used in the most effective and efficient way.	March to May 2008	Research is still under way, final figure not available, the target number is 2,000 respondents.	137,818
GfK NOP	Annual Survey of Young People's attitudes towards global poverty and development issues. Results will provide trend data, drawing on previous survey work to enable comparisons to be made to inform, direct and provide a factual basis for communications on the work of DFID.	March to June 2008	Research is still under way, final figure not available, the target number is 1,000 respondents.	23,745

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in his Department in each of the last three years. [200666]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold central records of the number of full-time posts that are filled on a temporary basis, and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to relieve developing countries of debt. [207422]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Good progress has been made on relieving developing countries of debt as I outlined in the written statement to this House on 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 24-25WS. I refer my hon. Friend to this statement for details of what has been achieved.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199191]

Mr. Malik: A high proportion of internal correspondence and publications are handled electronically, but this is not systematically monitored. Responses to external correspondence are normally made in the same format as the correspondence is received, and some monitoring is carried out where this is beneficial. Monitoring is carried out on the use of specific external publications on DFID's website when required.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 April from the hon. Member for Walsall, North on global education. [207725]

Gillian Merron: The reply to my hon. Friend for Walsall, North's letter of 22 April 2008 has been issued.

Overseas Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what procedures for co-ordination between his Department and the Ministry of Defence are in place for training on humanitarian airdrop or relief operations. [207374]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence co-operate together closely on all operational aspects of humanitarian relief where military assets may be used, including training. This does not, however, include training for relief airdrops, which can be carried out without joint training.

Uganda: Refugees

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives in Uganda have had discussions with the government of Uganda on the provision of schooling in camps for displaced people and return areas for those affected by the conflict with the Lords Resistance Army in the northern districts of Uganda. [207481]

Gillian Merron: During his visit to Uganda in November 2007, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State visited a school in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp and had discussions with local government authorities on a range of issues including those relating to the provision of, and access to, education, stressing the importance of ensuring that education is a priority in the development of the Government of Uganda's Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP).

The Department for International Development (DFID) and other partners are currently in discussion with the Government of Uganda on the options for funding the implementation of the PRDP.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made in theatre of the Jackal M-WMIK vehicle's performance with its unladen weight increased by 42 per cent. [201416]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No formal assessment has yet been made in theatre regarding the performance of Jackal, as it has only very recently been delivered to theatre. We expect to receive initial feedback from theatre commanders on the performance of this vehicle shortly.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from the Royal Engineers are based in Helmand Province; and what their duties are. [207463]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of 1 May 2008, there were a total of around 400 Royal Engineer posts established in Helmand province: the actual number deployed at any particular time can and does vary, including through roulements, visits and periods of mid-tour leave.

British military engineers in Helmand are conducting close engineer support (including tasks such as mobility support, counter mobility support, explosive ordnance disposal and search) and general engineer support (such as infrastructure development, construction, geographic support and civil-military co-operation). There are also a number of engineering personnel in Helmand Province who assist in training and mentoring the Afghan National Army.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum weight of cargo able to be carried by all variants of the CH-47 helicopter used by British forces in Afghanistan is. [207540]

Des Browne: The maximum weight of cargo able to be carried by all variants of the CH-47 helicopter used by the British forces in Afghanistan is kept under review to account for changes in environmental conditions, but is currently set at 5,000 kg.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 15-18WS, on helicopters on operations, which company provides the new contract for the civilian air transport used by ISAF in southern Afghanistan; on how many occasions UK troops have flown in aircraft so provided; how the contract is funded and what the UK's contribution is; what percentage of the assets used by the contractor to date has been *(a)* rotary and *(b)* fixed wing; and if he will make a statement. [207654]

Des Browne: The company providing the new contract is Skylink. UK troops have never flown in the aircraft provided. The contract continues to be funded from NATO common funding and the UK continues to contribute a 12 per cent. share to that funding. Currently all assets used by the contractor have been rotary wing.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the security situation in Helmand Province. [208162]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: International Security Assistance Force and Afghan armed forces continue to engage in successful operations against the Taliban in Helmand, pushing them back from populated areas and bringing more of the province under the control of the government of Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, the insurgents continue to pose a threat through improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and opportunistic attacks.

Air Force: Military Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 7W, on Air Force: military aid (1) in which Royal Air Force fixed wing cargo aircraft baseboards can be used; and how many baseboards each such aircraft can accommodate at one time; [207414]

(2) what the maximum load capacity of a single baseboard is. [207415]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Baseboards can be used in the Hercules C130JK and C130K. There are four sizes of baseboard in use, which are shown in the following table, together with the maximum load capacity.

		Baseboard capacity			
Baseboard size	Maximum load of capacity of each baseboard (kgs)	C130J Mk4	C130J Mk5	C130K Mk1	C130K Mk3
48 x 48 inches	1,134	24	16	—	—

Baseboard size	Maximum load of capacity of each baseboard (kgs)	Baseboard capacity			
		C130J Mk4	C130J Mk5	C130K Mk1	C130K Mk3
52 x 43 inches	1,134	—	—	6	6
52 x 86 inches	1,134	—	—	3	3
96 x 48 inches	1,134	12	8	—	—

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 175W, on the air force: military aid, for what reasons the RAF's C-17 Globemasters are not capable of conducting humanitarian airdrop operations. [207845]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The RAF's C-17 Globemasters were acquired primarily as strategic transport aircraft. The airworthiness and safety cases have not therefore been constructed to support the tactical flying required to conduct airdrop sorties. The RAF's airdrop capability is provided by the Hercules C130 fleet.

Air Force: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours of training were required for those flying *(a)* fast jets, *(b)* transport aircraft and *(c)* helicopters in the RAF in each year since 2003. [199451]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 21 April 2008, (Official Report, column 1638W) about the number of hours training required for those flying fast jets, transport aircraft and helicopters in each year since 2003.

Aircrew are monitored for competency levels throughout their flying career and training continues for Front Line aircrew after the initial award of Combat Ready status. Aircrew undertake regular flying practice and undergo periodic assessment by an appropriate examining body. The average hours of pilot training each year are shown in the table below.

There has been no significant variation in these figures over the period in question. All figures in the table are approximate and are rounded to the nearest five.

Type of aircraft/helicopter	Average hours of pilot flying training allocated each year
Fast Jets	210
Transport aircraft	290
Puma, Merlin and Chinook helicopters	240
Sea King helicopters	90

The hours for Hawk training aircraft and contracted helicopters such as the Squirrel and Griffin have not been included.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the time which will elapse between *(a)* completion of the construction of each Future Aircraft Carrier and formal handover to the Royal Navy and *(b)* formal handover of each Future Aircraft Carrier to the Royal Navy and entry into service with the Fleet. [206328]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* The carriers will be accepted progressively throughout construction, with a period of some six months elapsing between completion of construction of each Future Aircraft Carrier and formal handover to the Royal Navy. The ships will be available to be deployed by the Fleet after they have successfully completed operational sea training and operational readiness inspection, which is assessed as requiring some four months.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the order for the future aircraft carriers has not been placed; and what conditions will have to be fulfilled before it will be placed. [206626]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement laid by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 15WS, indicating we have given our written assurance to industry of our intention to place the contract once the proposed shipbuilding joint venture company has formed.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many young people are members of cadet contingents attached to HM Forces in *(a)* Northumberland, *(b)* Tyne and Wear, *(c)* County Durham and *(d)* Cleveland. [201037]

Derek Twigg: There are cadet contingents which are affiliated to all of the four MOD sponsored cadet forces in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham and Cleveland. Cadet forces are not attached to HM Forces. The numbers of young people in the cadet forces in the respective counties are as follows:

	Northumberland	County Durham	Tyne and Wear	Cleveland
Combined Cadet Force	0	285	115	40
Sea Cadet Corps	196	0	123	112
Army Cadet Force	680	858		821
Air Training Corps	1,098			260

Cadet forces are not all organised on current regional government lines; numbers above are broken down as closely as possible.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resources will be made available to establish combined cadet forces in state schools. [207232]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to develop costed plans for increasing the number of cadet force units in state schools. It is too early to say how much this will be.

The scale of these plans will be predicated on the willingness of schools to take part and the availability of sufficient suitable adult volunteers prepared to commit their time and energy to this worthwhile activity. We must also ensure that any further expansion is properly resourced so as not to dilute the value of the cadet experience to the 97,000 state school pupils that currently take part in the Combined Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions *(a)* he has had and *(b)* he plans to have with the National Union of Teachers on the establishment of combined cadet forces in state schools. [207233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Defence Ministers have not met, nor have any current plans to meet, with the National Union of Teachers to discuss establishing Combined Cadet Force units within State Schools.

The Department is working closely with Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) on ways of improving awareness of, and access to, cadet activity for state school pupils. While the DCSF is supportive of activities that help children and young people understand the role of the armed forces it is for head teachers to determine whether to invite cadet forces into their schools.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which force elements reported *(a)* no serious or critical and *(b)* no critical weakness against (i) the ability to generate from peacetime readiness to immediate readiness for deployment on operations and (ii) required peacetime readiness levels in each year since 2004-05. [206915]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information concerning readiness statistics against PSA targets is published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts and quarterly performance reports, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. This information is broken down into land, maritime and air force elements. More detailed differentiation is not reported for reasons of national security.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the peacetime establishment was of *(a)* 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, *(b)* 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and *(c)* The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland before deployment to Iraq; what the strength on deployment of each unit is; how many reinforcements each received from (i) the regular Army, (ii) the Territorial Army and (iii) the regular Army Reserves; and how many of all ranks in each are remaining in the UK (A) on recruitment duties, (B) physically unfit to deploy and (C) in barracks in reserve. [207088]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The peacetime establishment of the requested units as at 1 June 2008 is shown in the following table. As disclosure of exact numbers would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces, I have rounded numbers to the nearest 100.

Unit	*Peacetime establishment prior to deployment*
3 RHA	500
1 RRF	700
4 SCOTS	700

I am unable to provide the remainder of the information requested until these units have completed their deployment to Iraq. I will write to the hon. Member in due course.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the peacetime establishment was of *(a)* 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, *(b)* The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and *(c)* The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland before deployment to Afghanistan; what the strength of each on deployment was; how many reinforcements were received by each from (i) the regular Army, (ii) the Territorial Army and (iii) the regular Army Reserves; and how many of all ranks of each are remaining in the UK (A) on recruitment duties, (B) physically unfit to deploy and (C) in barracks in reserve. [207089]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The following table provides the information requested: however as disclosure of exact numbers would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces, I have rounded numbers to the nearest 100 or where less than 100 to the nearest 10, as appropriate.

	7 PARA RHA	*2 Scots*	*5 Scots*
Peace Establishment	500	600	700
Deployed Strength	400	400	500
TA reinforcements	<10	<10	50
Reg Reserves Reinforcements	0	0	<10
Regular Army	100	0	50
Unfit to deploy	40	70	60
Recruitment duties	<10	10	20
Rear Party	70	30	60

7 Para RHA are heavily reinforced from other Regular Army units due to their current role in theatre. This is not unusual for specialist roles.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what headings are used to sub-categorise troops unfit to deploy; and how many troops from *(a)* 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, *(b)* 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, *(c)* The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, *(d)* 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, *(e)* The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and *(f)* The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland are classified under each of those headings. [207090]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* Soldiers who are unfit to deploy on operations are categorised as either non-available or non-effective. These are additionally sub-categorised as being either medical or G1 (personnel) reasons. Personnel who are classed as non-available for medical or personnel reasons may still be able to make a contribution to the Unit Rear Party. Personnel who are classed as non-effective are unfit for any task.

The number of troops categorised as unfit to deploy in the requested units as at 1 March 2008 are shown in the following table.

	Non-available		*Non-effective*		
Unit	*Medical*	*G1*	*Medical*	*G1*	*Total unable to deploy*
3 RHA	13	40	4	0	57
7 PARA RHA	10	29	1	0	40
1 RRF	18	12	5	2	37
4 SCOTS	15	21	0	0	36
2 SCOTS	33	32	5	0	70
5 SCOTS	9	49	3	0	61

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops from 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery have been sent to Afghanistan; and whether he plans to transfer these troops to Iraq to rejoin their regiment. [207091]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* I am withholding the exact number of troops from 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery deployed in Afghanistan as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. There are currently no plans to transfer these troops to Iraq to rejoin their regiment. Once they have completed their commitments in Afghanistan, they will be reunited with the regiment on return to the UK.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which battalions or regiments reinforcements have been taken to provide troops to *(a)* 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, *(b)* 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, *(c)* The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, *(d)* 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, *(e)* The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and *(f)* The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland; and how many reinforcements have been taken from each battalion or regiment. [207092]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The units and number of individuals which are providing reinforcements for the requested regiments and battalions are shown as follows:

	Units providing reinforcements	*Number provided*
3 Regt RHA	0	0
1 RRF	The Royal Regiment of Gibraltar	<20
	5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	<10
	4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment	<10
4 Scots	0	0
7 Para RHA	5 Scots	<10
	2 Scots	<10
	3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment	<10
	3 Regt RHA	<100
	26th Regiment Royal Artillery	<10
	1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment	<10
	13th Regiment Royal Logistic Corps	<10
	Armoured Division Signal Regt	<10

	Units providing reinforcements	*Number provided*
	Australian Army	<20
	Royal Air Force	<20
2 Scots	Various TA units	<10
5 Scots	0	0

As disclosure of exact numbers would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces, I have rounded numbers to the nearest 100, or where less than 100 to the nearest 10.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1702W, on armed forces deployment, how the figures for the *(a)* army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy and Royal Marines break down between regular and reserve personnel. [207405]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In very broad terms, using the methodology applied in my previous answer on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1702W, approximately 11 per cent. of the Regular Army is preparing for operations and the same proportion has recently returned from operations. For the Territorial Army the equivalent proportion is approximately 2.5 per cent. in each case. For the RAF, the proportion of reservists contained within the overall numbers about to deploy and recently returned from operations fluctuates considerably, and it would not be possible to produce a representative snapshot. As I made clear in my previous answer, data for the Royal Navy could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Discrimination

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instances of *(a)* discrimination and *(b)* criminal action against persons in military and naval uniform in a public place have been recorded by his Department in each year since 1997. [207280]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Instances of discrimination are not held centrally, and details of criminal action against persons in military uniform are not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Food

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of administering the Pay As You Dine scheme was in 2007-08. [207568]

Derek Twigg: The cost of administering the Pay As You Dine scheme is not readily available as it is embedded within MOD's multi-activity contracts and PFI projects. As such the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment has been made of the effects of the Pay As You Dine scheme on nutrition of young soldiers; and what steps he is taking to ensure that young soldiers reliant on the Pay As You Dine scheme consume an adequate diet; [207569]

(2) what assessment has been made of whether the Pay As You Dine scheme has promoted healthy eating; [207570]

(3) what customer satisfaction surveys of the Pay As You Dine scheme have been undertaken; and if he will publish the results of the surveys. [207571]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of food provision in the armed forces was in each year since 1997. [207572]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Gross expenditure on food purchase and services across the MOD for which figures are available are as follows:

Financial year	*Gross expenditure (£ million)*
1997-98	190
1998-99	195
1999-2000	195
2000-01	194
2001-02	205
2002-03	232
2003-04	271
2004-05	235
2005-06	243
2006-07	[1]274

[1] This figure excludes expenditure on food supplied and paid for through Pay As You Dine (PAYD) contracts which commenced April 2006.

Armed Forces: Industrial Health and Safety

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment for the protection of hearing is provided to armed forces personnel in theatre. [207035]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As part of the general equipment allocation, all Army personnel and Royal Marines are issued with a muff type ear protector which can be supplemented by disposable earplugs. These are also issued to RAF and RN personnel when their job requires them. In addition, specialist ear protection is provided for personnel when their role requires additional protection.

All service personnel arriving in theatre are provided with a re-usable double-ended earplug which provides protection against weapon firing or against continuous background noise. Hearing protection is also incorporated into most communication systems used by vehicles crews.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength of each service is, broken down by rank. [203207]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The latest available figures for *(a)* full-time trained armed forces requirements and *(b)* full time trained armed forces strengths are presented as follows:

Naval service full-time trained strengths and requirements[1] by NATO rank

Naval service	*Paid rank*	*Requirement as at 1 March 2008*	*Strength as at 1 March 2008[2]*
Officers[3]	OF9	*	[4]—
	OF8	10	[4]10
	OF7	30	[4]30
	OF6	60	[4]80
	OF5	270	[4]290
	OF4	1,140	[4]1,110
	OF3	2,180	[4]2,380
	OF2	2,900	[4]2,660
	OF1/OF(D)	70	[4]70
Other ranks	OR9	860	[4]830
	OR8	900	[4]810
	OR7	4,120	[4]4,370
	OR6	5,210	[4]4,760
	OR4	6,820	[4]6,310
	OR3[5]	*	[4]620
	OR2	11,770	[4]10,680
Total full time trained strength and requirement	—	36,360	[4]35,000

* = Zero or rounded to zero.

[1] The full time trained strength and the trained requirement both comprise trained UK regular forces, trained Gurkhas, FTRS (full time reserve service) personnel and nursing services. They do not include the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment or mobilised reservists.

[2] FTRS strength figures include full commitment (FC), home commitment (HC) and limited commitment (LC) individuals. For the Army, FC and LC individuals serve against the requirement while HC individuals fill posts specifically for FTRS personnel. For the RAF, FC individuals serve against the requirement while HC and LC individuals fill posts specifically for FTRS personnel. All Navy FTRS individuals serve against the requirement.

[3] No services have personnel at NATO Rank OF-10.

[4] Provisional.

[5] The naval service has no personnel at substantive rank OR-3 and no requirement at this rank. Marines with a substantive rank of OR-2 but acting as Corporal are recorded as paid rank OR-3, which aligns with the recognised rank of Lance Corporal in the Army.

Notes:

1. The requirement and strength figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and figures ending in five have been rounded to 20 to prevent bias, therefore totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.
2. Due to ongoing validation of data from the new Personnel Administration System, Army statistics from 1 April 2007 are provisional. All naval service and RAF statistics from 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

Army full-time trained strengths and requirements[1] by NATO rank

Army	*Paid rank*	*Requirement as at 1 March 2008*	*Strength as at 1 March 2008[2]*
Officers[3]	OF9	*	[4]10
	OF8	20	[4]20
	OF7	40	[4]40
	OF6	170	[4]180
	OF5	550	[4]590
	OF4	1,710	[4]1,790
	OF3	4,280	[4]4,950
	OF2	4,840	[4]4,920
	OF1	1,880	[4]1,720
Other ranks	OR9	1,420	[4]1,730
	OR8	4,280	[4]4,800
	OR7	5,830	[4]6,200
	OR6	10,540	[4]10,490
	OR4	16,720	[4]15,770
	OR3	18,280	[4]16,980
	OR1/OR2	31,280	[4]27,970
Total full time trained strength and requirement	—	101,800	[4]98,170

* = Zero or rounded to zero.

[1] The full time trained strength and the trained requirement both comprise trained UK regular forces, trained Gurkhas, FTRS (full time reserve service) personnel and nursing services. They do not include the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment or mobilised reservists.

[2] FTRS strength figures include full commitment (FC), home commitment (HC) and limited commitment (LC) individuals. For the Army, FC and LC individuals serve against the requirement while HC individuals fill posts specifically for FTRS personnel. For the RAF, FC individuals serve against the requirement while HC and LC individuals fill posts specifically for FTRS personnel. All Navy FTRS individuals serve against the requirement.

[3] No services have personnel at NATO Rank OF-10.

[4] Provisional.

Notes:

1. The requirement and strength figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and figures ending in five have been rounded to 20 to prevent bias, therefore totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.
2. Due to ongoing validation of data from the new Personnel Administration System, Army statistics from 1 April 2007 are provisional. All naval service and RAF statistics from 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

RAF full-time trained Strengths and Requirements[1] by NATO Rank

RAF	*Paid rank*	*Requirement as at 1 April 2008[2,3]*	*Strength as at 1 March 2008[4]*
Officers[5]	OF6-OF9	[6]100	[6]130
	OF5	[6]250	[6]310
	OF4	[6]1,180	[6]1,240
	OF3	[6]2,500	[6]2,660
	OF1-OF2	[6]4,880	[6]4,460
Total officers	—	[6]8,920	[6]8,800
Other ranks[7]	OR9	[6]1,070	[6]1,150
	OR7	[6]3,230	[6]3,350
	OR6	[6]6,920	[6]6,570
	OR4	[6]8,790	[6]8,740

RAF full-time trained Strengths and Requirements[1] by NATO Rank

RAF	*Paid rank*	*Requirement as at 1 April 2008[2,3]*	*Strength as at 1 March 2008[4]*
	OR1/OR2	[6]12,270	[6]12,140
Total other ranks	—	[6]32,290	[6]31,950
Total full time trained strength and requirement	—	[6]41,210	[6]40,750

[1] The full time trained strength and the trained requirement both comprise trained UK regular forces, trained Gurkhas, FTRS (full time reserve service) personnel and nursing services. They do not include the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment or mobilised reservists.

[2] There is no Royal Air Force stated requirement for 1 March 2008 therefore the 1 April 2008 requirement has been provided.

[3] For the RAF, including the FTRS, there is no agreed breakdown by rank for the 1 April 2008 regular requirement. Requirement by rank has been derived by calculating the proportion of total strength for each rank and applying these proportions to the total requirement. FTRS requirement is 180 officers and 220 other ranks, and has been included on the same basis.

[4] FTRS strength figures include full commitment (FC), home commitment (HC) and limited commitment (LC) individuals. For the Army, FC and LC individuals serve against the requirement while HC individuals fill posts specifically for FTRS personnel. For the RAF, FC individuals serve against the requirement while HC and LC individuals fill posts specifically for FTRS personnel. All Navy FTRS individuals serve against the requirement.

[5] The Royal Air Force does not produce a rank breakdown of requirement for OF-6 to OF-9.

[6] Provisional.

[7] The Royal Air Force has no personnel at NATO ranks OR-3 or OR-8.

Notes:

1. The requirement and strength figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and figures ending in five have been rounded to 20 to prevent bias, therefore totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.
2. Due to ongoing validation of data from the new Personnel Administration System, Army statistics from 1 April 2007 are provisional. All naval service and RAF statistics from 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

Armed Forces: Military Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the *(a)* Royal Air Force and *(b)* Army have trained for conducting humanitarian airdrop operations in each of the last five years. [207373]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None. Should a request be made for a humanitarian airdrop, appropriate training will be given as necessary.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 7W, on Air Force: military aid, how baseboards are *(a)* replaced and *(b)* recovered after use in humanitarian airdrop operations. [207413]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Baseboards are replaced as they are used and are not routinely recovered.

Armed Forces: Monuments

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will visit the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield to discuss issues arising from increased visitor numbers; and if he will make a statement. [207598]

Derek Twigg: Ministers have visited the National Memorial Arboretum a number of times over recent months and both they and officials have discussed and corresponded with trustees and the Royal British Legion on issues arising out of the increase in numbers of visitors following the dedication of the Armed Forces Memorial in October of last year. Officials are due to meet representatives of the trusts involved and the Royal British Legion on 29 May to discuss the issues raised by this increase.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were entitled to the Long Service Advance of Pay in each year since 2003; and what estimate he has made of the number of entitlements in the next three years. [206154]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was paid via Long Service Advance of Pay scheme in each year since its inception; [206340]

(2) how many service personnel took up the Long Service Advance of Pay in each year since its inception; [206341]

(3) what the annual cost of the Long Service Advance of Pay scheme was in each year since its inception. [206342]

Derek Twigg: The date of inception of Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) was 1965 for the Royal Navy, and 1996 for the Army and RAF. Information for the period 1965 to financial year 2000-01 could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. The amount paid since financial year 2000-01 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Value (£ million)*
2001-02	20.35
2002-03	20.39
2003-04	16.23
2004-05	14.76
2005-06	16.39
2006-07	24.66
2007-08	19.90

The number of service personnel who took up LSAP in each year since financial year 2001-02 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of service personnel*
2001-02	2,670
2002-03	2,645
2003-04	2,072
2004-05	1,906
2005-06	2,096
2006-07	3,140
2007-08	2,472

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs treat LSAP as a benefit in kind liability for national insurance contributions. The Ministry of Defence has therefore made an average annual payment of £300,000 in each of the last six financial years to satisfy this requirement. A more detailed breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much local overseas allowance service personnel received to travel back from *(a)* Germany and *(b)* Cyprus in each year since 2000. [206911]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Local overseas allowance is not payable for the purpose of Service personnel travelling back to the UK from Germany, Cyprus and other overseas locations.

Armed Forces: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 15-18WS, on helicopters on operations, (1) what the budget for the Helicopter Fund is in 2008-09; and what percentage of that budget will be met by the UK; [207650]

(2) how much the UK contributed to the seed fund for the helicopter support initiative. [207653]

Des Browne: The UK has made a one off contribution of £5.75 million to this fund. We continue to seek additional contributions and have not yet considered applications for programmes to be resourced from the fund.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 15-18WS, on helicopters on operations, whether *(a)* NATO or *(b)* the EU is responsible for the Helicopter Fund. [207652]

Des Browne: The Helicopter Fund is currently facilitated by NATO (SHAPE) but neither NATO nor the EU is responsible for the fund. Contributing nations will decide how resources are allocated.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1519W, on armed forces: training, how many of the eight Fighting in Built-up Areas facilities have been specifically designed to replicate Afghan villages. [207110]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Copehill Down, Wiltshire was extended in 2005 to simulate an Iraqi urban area for units to train prior to deployment in the Middle East.

However, there are, at present, no equivalent facilities on the defence estate specifically designed to replicate Afghan villages. Plans exist for "Middle East" style compounds/hamlets to be constructed in the future, but no timeframes are as yet available.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's vehicle capitation rates. [207050]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No. Placing the vehicle capitation rates in the Library of the House would prejudice the Department's commercial interests.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he received from the French government in support of Nexter's bid to supply the Future Rapid Effect System utility vehicle requirement; and if he will make a statement. [207123]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ministers and officials often exchange correspondence and discuss defence issues with their French counterparts. The French Government have supported Nexter's bid for the Utility Vehicle design of the Future Rapid Effect System, both in writing and during discussions.

Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1307W, on Army deployment, what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* mode and *(c)* median interval is between tours of duty for Army units. [207109]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Tour intervals are calculated for units within the Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps and Royal Artillery. In relation to the last tour intervals for these units the mean interval is 25 months. The mode and median figure for these units is 23 months.

Bombs

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on possible outcomes of the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on cluster munitions. [207457]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I discussed the outcome of the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on cluster munitions with Bob Gates on 1 June 2008.

Cyprus: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy personnel are based in Cyprus as (i) part of Operation Tosca and (ii) outside Operation Tosca; and what their respective missions are. [208159]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Currently, there are some 250 British Army personnel based in Cyprus as part of Operation Tosca. There are no Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel deployed in support of that operation. The mission of the armed forces personnel assigned to Op Tosca is to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) mandate, which is to prevent a recurrence of fighting, maintain a stable environment and de-escalate the military presence along the buffer zone in order to enable a just and lasting political solution.

Excluding Op Tosca, as of 28 May 2008, there are some 1,880 Army, 40 Royal Navy and 1,160 Royal Air Force personnel based in Cyprus. These personnel contribute to the mission of British Forces Cyprus which involves: the maintenance of the sovereign base areas and retained sites for their effective use as military bases; the provision of security and protection for key facilities, British Forces Cyprus and sovereign base area administration personnel, their dependants and other designated personnel; the operation, sustainment and development of the forward mounting base; and the provision of other operational capabilities in support of wider UK operations.

Cyprus: Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force aircraft are permanently based in Cyprus. [208160]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no Royal Air Force aircraft permanently based in Cyprus. However, there is a complement of three contractor owned, Government operated (COGO) helicopters based with UK forces in Cyprus. These helicopters are owned and maintained by the contractor but operated by the RAF and painted with an RAF colour scheme. The aircraft is the Griffin HAR2 and its main role is search and rescue.

Defence: Internet

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of his Department will work at the newly-established Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Estonia. [207043]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Chief of Defence Staff advised the Estonian Defence Minister last year that the United Kingdom is fully supportive of the Estonian Cyber Defence initiative and their endeavours in this important area. However, given the need to co-ordinate Cyber Defence with a number of other Government Departments and allies, our preferred means of support is via virtual participation, rather than attach personnel permanently to Estonia. The United Kingdom is not a founding signatory nation to the NATO Centre of Excellence but our position will be kept under review.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what review of the defence procurement programme is in progress; and when he expects announcements to be made about the next stage in the procurement of *(a)* future Lynx, *(b)* the future carrier programme, *(c)* the Astute programme, *(d)* JSF, *(e)* FRES, *(f)* Type 45, *(g)* A400M and *(h)* Nimrod MRA4. [203416]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 May 2008]*: We are undertaking an examination of our planning assumptions for equipment over the next 10 years, with a view to bearing down on cost increases to equipment programmes and shifting the overall balance of defence procurement to the support of operations. This will provide an important input to our next planning round.

We announced on 8 May 2008 that we have provisionally selected the Piranha 5 as the preferred design for the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) utility vehicle. We announced on 20 May 2008 that the MOD is ready to go ahead with the contract signature for the future aircraft carriers. Any further announcements on individual projects will be made when appropriate.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected financial costs are for each service of each equipment procurement project expected to come on stream in each year from 2010 to 2015; what the individual payment terms of each project are; and from which budget the funding for each will be derived. [205587]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The detailed financial data for the Department's equipment projects forms part of the internal advice to Ministers on the overall affordability of the Defence programme and contains information which is commercially sensitive. I am therefore withholding this information as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice commercial interests. Financial data relating to some of these projects, however, can be found within the National Audit Office Major Projects Report 2007 Project Summary Sheets, (HC 98-11 Session 2007-08 dated 30 November 2007), as published by the Stationery Office and available on the NAO website at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/07-08/070898ii.pdf

Departmental Accountancy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will produce shadow international financial reporting standards accounts for the current financial year. [207052]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD plans to produce shadow international financial reporting standards accounts for 2008-09 in accordance with HM Treasury direction.

Departmental Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what, in near cash terms, his Department's annual spectrum charge is for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [207048]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD currently pays approximately £50 million per year for its spectrum use.

In line with Government policy and resource accounting principles, the level of future fees will be dependent upon the level of the MOD's spectrum use at that time. The MOD will consult shortly on the management and marketing of the UK Defence spectrum.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list his Department's category A projects that are subject to variation of price clauses. [207049]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Financial Coherence Review 2006. [207053]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what, in near cash terms, are his Department's planning round 2008 Top Level Budget *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital allocations are for financial years (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [207056]

Des Browne: The Department's planned budgetary allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11, disaggregated by top level budget, will be published in the MOD's Departmental Plan in June 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's category *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C projects are for the 2008-09 financial year. [207057]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The timing of MOD investment decisions depends on the maturity of the project. It is not therefore possible to provide a list of projects for the 2008-09 financial year.

Investment decisions for projects are taken as soon as the necessary work is complete.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 12 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 500, that his Department and the Treasury would share the costs of urgent operational requirements above a mutually agreed total, what the mutually agreed total for the 2008-09 financial year is. [207105]

Derek Twigg: The mutually agreed estimated spend for urgent operational requirements, for 2008-09, is £900 million.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State for Defence in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203843]

Derek Twigg: We intend to publish an annual list, ahead of the summer recess, providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in the Department during the course of the previous financial year.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207464]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 517W.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the anticipated operating and non-operating appropriations in aid are for each year of the comprehensive spending review; and whether they were included in the near cash resource and capital departmental expenditure limits given in his answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report,* column 1893W, on Departments: public expenditure. [191685]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Anticipated operating and non-operating appropriations in aid are published in Departmental Estimates. Operating and non-operating appropriations in aid were included in the 2006-07 outturn figures quoted in my answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report,* column 1893W.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Gerald Howarth:

Thank you for your letter of 27 March following my response to your Parliamentary Question on 5 March 2008 (Official Report, col 2557-8W) about departmental expenditure. I apologise for the delay in replying.

In your original question you referred to my answer of 10 September (Official Report Column 1893W). I answered two questions from you on departmental expenditure on that day and regrettably the wrong Hansard reference was referred to in my reply.

In answer to your question, the estimated Appropriations-in-Aid for the CSR years are as follows:

£ million

	Operating	*Non operating*
2008-09	1,243	300
2009-10	1,277	200
2010-11	1,312	283

These anticipated receipts were taken in account when setting our near cash and capital departmental expenditure limits given in my answer of 10th September. It should be noted that these are estimates and are subject to a number of changeable factors (e.g. property prices and levels of assets disposals). I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

I apologise for the inconvenience this has caused.

Departmental Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Defence Analytical Services Agency report, Evaluating the Move from Input to Output Price Indices in Price Escalation clauses-Final Report. [207055]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

Departmental Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals recruited into his Department and its agencies are subject to (i) UK and (ii) overseas criminal record checks; and if he will make a statement. [206476]

Derek Twigg: All recruits to the Ministry of Defence, whether service or civilian, are subject to checks to ensure their reliability and suitability for the post in question. In addition, certain posts are restricted to UK citizens. For the majority of posts in the MOD and the armed forces, national security vetting is required. This includes a full criminal record check of both spent and unspent convictions on the police national computer in accordance with the then Prime Minister's statement on vetting on 15 December 1994, *Official Report,* columns 764-66W.

Where it is judged that national security vetting is unnecessary and the level of risk is acceptable, the Baseline Personnel Security Standard is applied. This requires recruits to declare unspent convictions against which random checks are carried out. When individuals will be working with children or vulnerable adults, any such checks are supplemented by checks with the Criminal Records Bureau.

These regulations apply to all UK citizens resident in this country, regardless of their place of birth. The same applies to foreign citizens who are eligible to apply for civil service and armed forces posts.

Work to improve access to overseas criminal conviction data is being taken forward by the Home Office and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) of 4 February 2008, *Official Report,* columns 824-25W.

Dounreay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the naval reactor test establishment at Dounreay will be decommissioned; and what plans his Department has for the subsequent use of the facility. [206527]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No final decisions have yet been made, but current plans assume the de-commissioning of the naval reactor test establishment would begin after 2022 and will take several years to complete. An option for bringing this forward is being investigated. No decisions have been made as yet regarding the future use of the facility.

EU Battlegroup

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost to his Department was of certifying the UK EU Battlegroup for July to December 2008; [207375]

(2) what the expected cost to his Department is of providing the UK's commitment to the EU Battlegroup in July to December 2008. [207376]

Des Browne: The UK commitment to the EU Battlegroup roster for July to December 2008 will be met by forces from the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup (SSFIBG) element of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF). As this is a national high readiness contingency which is already on standby during the relevant period, there is no additional cost to the UK of providing an EU Battlegroup on standby.

There would be additional costs to the UK were the Battlegroup to deploy. However, an EU Battlegroup is a standby commitment intended for emerging contingencies and it is impossible to predict at the current time whether or not it will be deployed during its standby period. The cost to the UK of deploying an EU Battlegroup would depend on the nature and length of any deployment.

The UK Battlegroup is certified nationally to standards which incorporate and exceed the Standards and Criteria for EU Battlegroups. Other enablers taken from the JRRF also meet these standards. The only cost of certification therefore are the negligible administrative costs associated with the formal notification to the EU that the UK contribution is of sufficient standard, and the administration costs associated with hosting the EU Battlegroup observers day to Exercise Druid's Dance on 12 May. Hosting the observers' day is not a requirement of EU Battlegroup certification but is encouraged in the EU Battlegroup concept to help share best practice amongst EU member states.

Ex-servicemen: Identity Cards

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* initial and *(b)* annual cost of issuing a Veterans ID Card analogous to the current Service ID Card. [207[illegible]8]

Derek Twigg: In recent years, exploratory work has been undertaken both by the Department and commercial organisations to investigate the potential benefits of a Veterans ID card; this has included a range of options covering a number of potential functions. No precise costings have been undertaken and these would depend on the function chosen and assumptions about uptake. Costs will be reassessed and updated as part of the work to decide how, precisely, to take forward the recommendation for a Veterans ID card in the National Recognition Study undertaken by my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies).

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft: Procurement

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 1525W, on Future Strategic Tanker aircraft: procurement, whether personnel involved in Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft procurement will be transferred to future procurement programmes. [207170]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Staff from the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft Integrated Project Team will be transferred to other programmes as required by the Ministry of Defence to best utilise the knowledge and skills they have gained, and to meet the career aspirations of individuals.

Iraq: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of the second tranche of Mastiffs have been deployed to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [207047]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 792W.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role is planned for Mastiff armoured vehicles once large scale operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have been concluded. [207197]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The requirement for Mastiff patrol vehicles on current operations is likely to continue. We will review the future requirement for Mastiff, and other vehicles of this type, once operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have been completed.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many indirect fire attacks have been made against Basra Air Station in each month since October 2007. [196602]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of indirect fire attacks against the Contingency Operating Base in Basra in each month since October 2007 can be found in the following table:

Month	*Attack*
2007	
October	9
November	11
December	12
2008	
January	24
February	13
March	27
April	4
May	1

The figures for 2008 include attacks up to 22 May 2008. More than one rocket may have been fired in any individual attack.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* gallantry and meritorious service medals of each type and *(b)* campaign medals have been awarded to members of the Territorial Army in respect of their service in Iraq and Afghanistan; and how many members of the Territorial Army have received campaign medals for service in both countries. [206380]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of gallantry and meritorious medals of each type awarded to members of the Territorial Army is given in the following tables.

Gallantry award	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*
Military Cross	2	1
Queen's Gallantry Medal	1	0
Queen's Commendation for Bravery	1	0
Mention in Despatches	6	1

Meritorious service	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*
Member of the Order of the British Empire	4	1
Officer of the Order of the British Empire	0	1
Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service	15	1
Royal Red Cross 1st Class	1	0

The total number of campaign medals issued to both regular and reserve personnel for service in Iraq and Afghanistan as at 23 May 2008 is as follows:

	Number
Iraq	114,467
Afghanistan	52,222

Information on the number of campaign medals issued to members of the Territorial Army alone, and on personnel who have been awarded campaign medals for both theatres, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it costs frontline troops in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq to top-up telephone time by (i) 20, (ii) 30, (iii) 45 and (iv) 90 minutes during on-peak periods; and what hours constitute (A) on-peak and (B) off-peak talk time for armed forces personnel in (1) Afghanistan and (2) Iraq. [206912]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Service personnel deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq are entitled to 30 minutes of free telephone time per week. It is not possible to provide a specific figure in terms of top-up costs as this varies considerably dependent on which country and which telecommunications provider within a country is being called. In all, there are 381 different call cost rates for some 140 countries advertised in telephone cabins etc. in the Afghanistan and Iraq theatres of which 21 rates apply to the UK. These are broken down between British Telecom rates and the various mobile network providers. However, if a call to a British Telecom line is used as an example, the charge is 11p per minute to make a call from a telephone cabin satellite phone. It will therefore cost £2.20 for 20 minutes of call time; £3.30 for 30 minutes of call time; £4.95 for 45 minutes of call time; and £9.90 for 90 minutes of call time. Personnel calling from an Iridium satellite telephone will pay £17.80 for 20 minutes; £26.70 for 30 minutes; £40.08 for 45 minutes; and £80.10 for 90 minutes. Personnel calling from an INMARSAT system will pay £23.40 for 20 minutes; £35.10 for 30 minutes; £52.65 for 45 minutes; and £105.30 for 90 minutes. Iridium and

INMARSAT charges are set by 3rd party satellite services providers and not by the MOD communications contractor. Steps are being taken to migrate welfare users off these tariffs and on to a rate comparable to a telephone cabin. There are no peak rate times for personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan as all calls are charged as listed regardless of the time of day.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the costs of the UK military presence in Iraq were in each year since 2003. [207709]

Des Browne: The costs of operations are calculated on a net additional basis and audited figures are published each year in the MOD's annual report and accounts. The total annual costs of operations in Iraq for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 were as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	
Operations in Iraq	629
Expenditure on Capital equipment	218
Total	847
2003-04	
Operations in Iraq	1,051
Expenditure on Capital equipment	260
Total	1,311
2004-05	
Operations in Iraq	747
Expenditure on Capital equipment	163
Total	910
2005-06	
Operations in Iraq	798
Expenditure on Capital equipment	160
Total	958
2006-07	
Operations in Iraq	787
Expenditure on Capital equipment	169
Total	956

An estimated cost of £1,648 million for 2007-08 was included in the spring supplementary estimates published in February. Final costs for the year, following an audit by the National Audit Office, will be published in the MOD's annual report and accounts in July.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1311-13W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, whether the Answer *(a)* is based solely on the headquarters element of each battalion listed and *(b)* includes the deployment of subordinate units down to the (i) company and (ii) platoon from each battalion listed. [207846]

Des Browne: The information provided assumed that a unit deployment consisted of a regimental headquarters and more than two sub units (i.e. a company, or equivalent) deploying for four months or more. This is consistent with the methodology applied to the measurement of operational tour intervals.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many weapons caches found in Basra Province since 1 January 2007 contained munitions originating from Iran. [208158]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the format requested. However, there is good reason to believe that a significant proportion of the equipment and armaments being used by insurgents against UK forces in Basra Province is of Iranian origin or has been transited through Iran.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1804W, on Kosovo: peacekeeping operations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the technical agreement papers. [207106]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No. I am withholding the papers as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of fitting explosion suppressant foam to one *(a)* C-130K and *(b)* C-130J Hercules is. [206142]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average cost of fitting explosion suppressant foam to one Hercules C-130K aircraft is approximately £600,000 and to one Hercules C-130J aircraft is approximately £350,000.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's aircraft capitation rates. [207044]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No. Placing the aircraft capitation rates in the Library of the House would prejudice the Department's commercial interests.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 303-5, on Afghanistan, how many Sea King helicopters have been deployed to Afghanistan since December 2007. [206178]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An additional four Sea King helicopters have been deployed to Afghanistan since the Prime Minister's oral statement of 12 December 2007.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the joint United Kingdom-France memorandum distributed among the

EU Political and Security Committee in early May 2008 on the critical shortfalls in capability which constrain the deployment of European helicopters on military operations. [207034]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK and French ambassadors to the EU Political and Security Committee sent a joint letter to the committee on 25 April explaining the proposed UK French helicopter initiative. I shall place a copy in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions members of his Department had with their European counterparts on the joint UK-France initiative to improve European helicopter capability for military operations at the 15 May 2008 European Defence Agency seminar. [207045]

Des Browne: 21 member states attended the European Defence Agency (EDA) seminar on 15 May 2008. The seminar took the form of two syndicate workshops covering helicopter crew training and helicopter upgrades.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Joint UK-France Summit Declaration of 27 March, if he will make a statement on the joint UK-France initiative to improve European helicopter capability for military operations. [207107]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made following the NATO Bucharest summit on 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 112WS, and to my written ministerial statement on Helicopters on Operations on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 16WS.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Chinook, *(b)* Merlin, *(c)* Puma and *(d)* Sea Kings are in the helicopter fleet; how many are available for use; and how many pilots serving with the armed forces are qualified to pilot each type of helicopter. [207169]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Helicopter Type	*Departmental total (total fleet)*	*Number available (forward fleet)*	*Number current and qualified pilots*
Chinook	48	29	109
Merlin	70	41	108
Puma	45	34	95
Sea King	135	69	223

For the purposes of MOD reporting, the definition used for the number of helicopters available for use is the number in the Forward Fleet. This figure excludes any aircraft undergoing programmed upgrades, major repair or awaiting disposal. The data provided on the number of qualified pilots, represent the number of pilots in flying roles who are both qualified and current to fly each type. Information on the number of current and qualified pilots who are occupying non-flying roles is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data for total and forward fleets are as at 1 May 2008.

Military Bands

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many official engagements have been undertaken by *(a)* military and *(b)* naval bands since 1997. [207259]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of official engagements for Regular Army bands has been recorded centrally from 2004 onwards and is shown in the following table:

	Number of engagements
2004	3,848
2005	3,688
2006	[1]2,653
2007	4,980
2008	[2]5,200

[1] Incomplete data.

[2] Forecast of planned engagements for the current year.

It is not possible to provide details of how many official engagements have been undertaken by Territorial Army bands as there are no centralised records held.

On average, the Royal Marine Band Service has performed 1,300 official engagements annually since 1997.

Military Bands: Expenditure

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was spent on *(a)* military and *(b)* naval bands in each year since 1997; [207258]

(2) how many engagements involving the recovery of costs have been undertaken by *(a)* military and *(b)* naval bands since 1997. [207260]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are currently collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member in due course.

Military Bands: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* naval (i) bandsmen and (ii) bandswomen there were in each year since 1997. [207279]

Derek Twigg: The number of trained Regular Army musicians serving each year since 1997, broken down by gender is shown as follows:

	Male	*Female*
1997	1,030	20
1998	1,000	40
1999	960	50
2000	950	60
2001	930	60
2002	920	70
2003	910	80
2004	900	90

	Male	Female
2005	850	90
2006	790	90
2007	730	90
2008	700	110

Since 1996, the Royal Marines Band Service (RMBS) has had a requirement for 356 trained musicians and buglers, comprising 12 officers and 344 other ranks. The actual strength by gender as at 22 May 2008 is 259 males and 70 females. A breakdown of actual strength by year is not available.

Military Bases: Cash Dispensing

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with automated teller machine (ATM) operators on removing ATMs which charge for cash withdrawals from UK military bases. [206607]

Derek Twigg: Automated teller machines (ATMs) are installed on military establishments via a variety of means and as such this is not a matter which is managed centrally in the Ministry of Defence (MOD). ATMs are incorporated within multi-activity contracts, through independent agreement made locally by individual Commanding Officers, or provided as part of retail and leisure run facilities. Subject to the terms of any associated lease or licence, Commanding Officers are free to enter discussions with ATM providers and seek the removal of fee paying ATMs at any time. Where ATMs are provided under contract, removal would, of course, have to be in line with the terms of the contract.

I understand that one of the leading ATM providers on the MOD estate, Forces Financial, is in the process of replacing its fee paying ATMs with free to use machines. It is anticipated that this replacement programme will be complete by mid 2009.

Military Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the scope is of his Department's examination of the equipment programme; when it will report; and if he will make a statement. [207058]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are undertaking an examination of our planning assumptions for equipment over the next 10 years, with a view to bearing down on cost increases to equipment programmes and shifting the overall balance of defence procurement to the support of operations.

We hope to complete the examination in the summer, and it will provide an important input to our next planning round.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planning assumption of the average unit cost of *(a)* procurement and *(b)* through life support for a Joint Strike Fighter is; what changes there have been to these assumptions since April 2002; how many Piranha 5 Future Rapid Effect System utility vehicles are planned to be procured; and if he will make a statement. [207120]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Unit production costs for joint strike fighter are dependent on the number and timing of aircraft purchases for all partner nations and the delivery profile. The UK's total procurement cost is likely to be up to £10 billion, depending on the number of aircraft required. Through life support for joint combat aircraft will also be shaped by the number and timing of aircraft deliveries and will be announced when the programme is sufficiently mature. We are continuously defining our requirement before seeking approval to procure aircraft.

The number of Piranha 5 Future Rapid Effect System utility vehicles to be procured will be set at the time the main investment decision is taken.

Military Equipment: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what, in near cash terms, the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital planned spend on each of his Department's 20 largest equipment projects is for financial years 2008-09 to 2017-18. [207059]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the Department's planned spend across the acquisition timescale for the 20 largest projects, post major decision point measured by value based on future forecast procurement expenditure, and 10 largest projects, pre major decision point, can be found within the National Audit Office Major Projects Report 2007 Project Summary Sheets, (HC 98-11 Session 2007-08 dated 30 November 2007), as published by the Stationery Office and available on the NAO website at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/07-08/070898ii.pdf

The detailed financial data form part of the internal advice to Ministers on the overall affordability of the Defence programme and contain information which is commercially sensitive. I am therefore withholding this information as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice commercial interests.

Military Equipment: Prices

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the variation of prices index used in the *(a)* A400M and *(b)* BVRAAM contracts. [207054]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The A400M and BVRAAM programmes do not use fixed variation of price indices.

The A400M programme uses an output index in the form of the Eurozone gross domestic product (GDP) deflator, as published monthly by the Statistical Office of the European Union (otherwise known as EUROSTAT). The Eurozone GDP deflator then in force is applied to each invoice at the time it is presented.

The BVRAAM programme uses a number of indices based on national price inflation series, as published by the governments of the partner nations. The UK index is based on the producer price index (MM2), published monthly by the Office for National Statistics. The indices applied are those in force either one month before the programme milestone point to which an invoice applies, or at a contractually defined date, depending on the category of deliverable item to which the invoice applies.

National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* members of the inquiry team of the National Recognition of our Armed Forces study met the British Association of Chambers of Commerce to discuss links between service units and commanders and associations of chambers of commerce in the last 12 months. [207231]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The independent Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces invited a number of contributions from a broad spectrum across the military, Parliament and other relevant areas of society including business leaders. I understand that the study team did not consult directly with the British Association of Chambers of Commerce but did meet with representatives from the Confederation of British Industry. A complete list of those who contributed is at Appendix 2 to the report, a copy of which can be found on the MOD website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/PersonnelPublications/DutyofCare/NationalRecognitionOfOurArmedForces.htm.

Defence Ministers and officials may, over the past 12 months, have had discussions with the British Association of Chambers of Commerce on links with the armed forces, but any such discussions would have been in the normal course of business and not specifically related to the national recognition study.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his policy is on the principle of selective briefings to journalists suggested at Recommendation 32 in the Report of the Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces; [207235]

(2) what discussions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces (i) has had and (ii) plans to have with HM Treasury on the change of Treasury rules necessary to carry out recommendation 15 of the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces in respect of charging for the use of military assets; [207263]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing each of the recommendations of the Report on National Recognition of our Armed Forces; [207282]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of military and naval man-days necessary to implement each recommendation in the Report on National Recognition of our Armed Forces; [207283]

(5) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of man-days and *(b)* the notional salary costs required to implement the 3+2+1 principle cited in the report on National Recognition of the Armed Forces. [207284]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I stated in my written ministerial statement on 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS, many of the Recommendations contained in the Independent Report will require detailed consideration across Government Departments and, where necessary, engagement with other organisations for those that are beyond the sole responsibility of Government. This work will take into account any resource issues and any amendments to existing regulations. We will be responding fully to all the Recommendations as soon as possible.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what egregious cases of media representation informed Recommendation 33G of the Report of the Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces; and what official action was taken in each case. [207236]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I understand that Recommendation 33 of the Independent Report into National Recognition of our Armed Forces was not informed by any specific egregious cases and, instead, is recommending a course of action to deal with such cases. The Government will consider the Recommendation and respond as soon as possible, as part of its overall response to the Report.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* local and *(b)* regional journalists were consulted in preparing the recommendations relating to improving media coverage contained in the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces. [207264]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I understand that the independent team set up to conduct the Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces consulted a number of media personnel as set out in Appendix 2 of the Report, a copy of which can be found on the MOD website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/PersonnelPublications/DutyofCare/NationalRecognitionOfOurArmedForces.htm

In addition, the team consulted with the MOD's Media and Communications organisation and the armed forces' regional staff on a range of issues including their local engagement with the media.

National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry: National Union of Teachers

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates the National Union of Teachers was consulted in preparing the report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces. [207234]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I understand that my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) did not consult the National Union of Teachers in the process of conducting his independent inquiry into the National Recognition of the Armed Forces.

National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry: Religion

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what leaders of the *(a)* Jewish, *(b)* Hindu and *(c)* Muslim faiths were consulted in the course of the Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces; [207229]

(2) what non-conformist Christian leaders were consulted in the course of the Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces. [207230]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The independent Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces invited a number of religious leaders and groups to participate. A complete list of those who contributed is at Appendix 2 to the report, a copy of which can be found on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/PersonnelPublications/DutyofCare/NationalRecognitionOfOurArmedForces.htm.

National Recognition of our Armed Forces: Cost

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of producing and publishing the inquiry into the National Recognition of the Armed Forces Study was. [207377]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cost of production and publication of the inquiry into National Recognition of the Armed Forces Study is estimated to be some £176,000 of which approximately £144,000 was for the salaries of the two civil servants and one military officer supporting my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies)

Nuclear Reactors

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies his Department has *(a)* carried out and *(b)* commissioned into potential sites for a prototype for the new generation nuclear propulsion plant. [206528]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department has neither commissioned nor carried out any studies into potential sites for a prototype for the next generation nuclear propulsion plant.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the publications *(a)* JSP 518, on regulation of the naval nuclear provision programme and *(b)* JSP 471, on defence nuclear accident response. [207720]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A copy of Joint Service Publication (JSP) 518, Regulation of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme, will be placed in the Library of the House.

JSP 471, Defence Nuclear Accident Response, is available from the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/HealthandSafetyPublications/JSP471

This is an unclassified version of the document, where codeword information has been removed for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Radio Frequencies

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he intends to publish his Department's plan for the release of the military elements of electromagnetic spectrum to the market; and if he will make a statement. [207051]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD plans to publish a consultation document on the management and marketing of the UK Defence Spectrum on 30 May 2008.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 484W, on radioactive materials: transport, what plans there are to use existing special nuclear materials load carriers to transport special nuclear materials before replacement carriers are commissioned; and if he will make a statement. [207208]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under current plans, the existing special nuclear materials load carriers will continue to be employed in their current role to transport special nuclear materials in support of the UK deterrent programme, until 2010 when they will be replaced by the Truck Cargo Heavy Duty, Mk 3.

Reserve Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which reservist training exercises were cancelled in the last 12 months. [206149]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last 12 months the following reservist training exercises were cancelled:

	Exercise name
2007	Assegai Eyes 07
2007	Bald Eagle 07/08
2007	Bass Rock 07/08
2007	Fingal's Cave 07/08
2008	Fingal's Cave 08/09
2007	Griffin Harness 07
2007	Lion Star 1 07/08
2007	Lion Star 2 07/08
2007	Lion Star 3 07/08
2007	Lion Star 4 07/08
2008	Marble Tor 1-08/09
2007	Romanian Express 07

South Africa: Mercenaries

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to update the guidance letter issued to South Africans in the British Army dated 20 February 2008 on South African legislation on mercenaries and membership of other nations' armed forces; when guidance on this subject was issued to South African personnel in *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* the RAF; whether South African personnel will be able to continue to serve in the British armed forces on a conditional or qualified basis on terms set out by the

South African government when the legislation comes into force; what meetings have been held between (i) officials and (ii) Ministers and the South African government to discuss the issue; and whether South African personnel in the armed forces will be granted UK citizenship if barred from membership of the UK armed forces by the legislation. [206117]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Letters are sent out to serving South African personnel at regular intervals updating them on the latest situation with regards to the South African legislation on mercenaries and membership of other nations' armed forces. The last letters to Royal Naval personnel were sent out on 31 January 2008 and letters to RAF personnel were sent on 15 February 2008. Further updates will be sent in due course if and when there are further developments.

We are urgently investigating the potential consequences for South African personnel currently serving in the UK armed forces, so that we can support those who may be affected. Our overriding aim is to secure the continual service of South African personnel in the UK armed forces and for them to be able to deploy on operations. We hope to send a team of officials to South Africa to hold face to face discussions with the officials who will be drafting the new regulations as it is the details of these underlying regulations that will allow us to understand what real effect the new Act, when it comes into force, will have on personnel.

Representations have been made by the Secretary of State for Defence to the South African Defence Minister, Mr. Lekota, on the potential implications the legislation would have on recruitment and retention of personnel into the UK armed forces. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence wrote to Mr. Lekota in August 2006 and followed this up with a telephone conversation in December 2006 and he wrote again in April 2007. Our high commissioner to South Africa, Paul Boateng, has also made representations to the Government of South Africa on several occasions. His last letter was sent to Mr. Lekota on 22 January 2008.

The Mercenary Act was discussed at the UK-South Africa bilateral Defence Staff talks held in the MOD on 3-4 March 2008 with the aim of securing a date for an officials visit at the earliest opportunity.

Under current rules eligible SA citizens serving in the British armed forces can apply for British citizenship if they have been resident in the UK for a five year period, or three years if married or in a civil partnership to a British citizen. Service in the armed forces, at home and abroad, counts towards the residential qualifying period. We are discussing other options with the Home Office should South African personnel be barred from membership of the UK armed forces.

We cannot say precisely what the implications of the legislation are for our people until the details of the regulations are divulged to us.

Veterans Day

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from non-governmental organisations on the events organised to celebrate the last Veterans Day. [207261]

Derek Twigg: Following Veterans Day 2007, the event was discussed in July and October at the Veterans Executive Steering Group which is chaired by the MOD and attended by the Confederation of Service and Ex-Service Organisations (COBSEO) and the heads of a number of its key member organisations. Their main comments were that COBSEO members should have wider and earlier visibility of events, that there should be higher level VIP support at the major events and that the London event should have a more central location. All these issues have been addressed for this year's events and COBSEO has been an integral part of our planning process since October 2007. Both the Government and the main ex-service charities have recognised that Veterans Day would need to be built up over a number of years. We are committed to working in partnership with the non-government organisations and others to achieve proper public recognition for the nation's veterans.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to improve the event organised to celebrate Veterans Day. [207262]

Derek Twigg: When the Government first launched Veterans day in 2006 as a key element of its initiative to improve the nation's recognition of its veterans and their achievements, it made clear that this was something that would need to be built up over a number of years. Veterans day 2008 promises to be a further step forward from last year with improved quality and size of events and growing public involvement.

The MOD does not organise Veterans day events itself but encourages and assists event organisers with advice and makes funding support available to those that meet the qualifying criteria; this funding increased last year and has again been increased for 2008. The aim is to encourage communities to take the initiative in the organising of events, whether in large cities or more widely, allowing them a wide degree of freedom to design events that engage young and old, while conveying our key messages about the achievements and diversity of veterans and the support available to them.

Recent measures to improve the quality of events have included a briefing of potential major event organisers last September, involving representatives from over 30 towns and cities across the United Kingdom; regular engagement with the key ex-service organisations; and wider work to promote the celebration of our veterans and to share best practice, including engagement with the local councils and civic offices, and presentations and coaching to other potential event organisers. I also hosted a Veterans day reception and briefing for all MPs in January, while detailed information on organising Veterans day events was sent to all MPs offices.

These actions have resulted in higher quality event bids and, reflecting this, MOD has allocated more funding in 2008 than in 2007.

As you will be aware, the National Recognition Study, authored by my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies), has just been released and makes a number of recommendations that could further enhance our recognition and celebration of the nation's veterans. We welcome these but will need to give them detailed consideration before deciding precisely how to take them forward.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206801]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently has no apprenticeships.

A pilot for apprenticeships, being run by Government Skills—which has recently become part of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills—is due to start in September. The FCO is in the process of evaluating scope for us to be involved in the pilot as a precursor to rolling out an apprenticeship-based induction for our support staff intake next year. The apprenticeships will offer National Vocational Qualification Level 2 and 3 qualifications in Business Administration.

FCO Services, a Trading Fund of the FCO, runs an advanced apprenticeship scheme for IT engineers. They have recruited an average of eight advanced apprentices per year over the last three years and currently have 22 advanced apprentices on their headcount. In September 2008, eight of the current advanced apprentices are due to graduate to substantive positions within their specialism. FCO Services currently plans to recruit an additional 30 advanced apprentices during this financial year.

British Council: Languages

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by the British Council on promoting the *(a)* English and *(b)* Welsh language outside the UK in each of the last five years. [206870]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* The following amounts have been spent by the British Council on the promotion of English language learning in each of the last five financial years:

	£
2007-08	[1]195,597
2006-07	205,911
2005-06	190,419
2004-05	184,484
2003-04	181,731

[1] Provisional

On behalf of the Welsh Assembly and through the British Council's grant in aid, the following amounts have been spent in support of the promotion of the Welsh language outside the UK in the last four financial years, and has been allocated for the current financial year:

	£
2008-09	64,100
2007-08	40,000
2006-07	55,000
2005-06	56,550
2004-05	53,000

Burma: United Nations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008 to my hon. Friend the Member for Mid-Norfolk (Mr. Simpson), *Official Report*, column 1813W, on Burma: United Nations, what further steps he has taken to co-ordinate international pressure on the ruling authorities in Burma to permit the fullest possible assistance to reach those affected by Cyclone Nargis. [207429]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, and I, have continued lobbying regional leaders. My noble Friend, Lord Malloch-Brown, visited Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Burma for ministerial discussions recently. On 19 May the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers agreed to create an aid co-ordination and delivery mechanism for Burma. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Burma with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York on 20 May. The UN Secretary-General attended the International Conference on Aid to Burma, co-ordinated by the UN and ASEAN, held in Rangoon on 25 May. We will continue to encourage the ASEAN countries urgently to set up a supply chain which we, and other donors, can use. We will continue to press for unfettered access to all the affected areas.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people from each country received Chevening scholarships in each of the last five years. [207537]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 996-99W. Details for the academic year 2003-04 are given in the Chevening Programme annual report for that year, which is also available at:

http://www.chevening.com/about/reports/.

A copy will also be placed in the Library of the House.

Details for the academic year 2007-08 are provided in the following table.

Country	*Core scheme*	*Central partnership*	*Fellows*	*Total*
Afghanistan	12	1	—	13
Albania	7	3	7	17
Algeria	6	—	1	7
Angola	2	—	1	3

Country	*Core scheme*	*Central partnership*	*Fellows*	*Total*
Anguilla	1	—	—	1
Antigua	0	—	1	1
Argentina	13	4	—	17
Armenia	4	1	1	6
Australia	6	5	—	11
Azerbaijan	4	3	3	10
Bahamas	1	1	—	2
Bahrain	6	—	1	7
Bangladesh	7	—	5	12
Barbados	0	—	1	1
Belarus	3	7	—	10
Belize	1	—	—	1
Bolivia	1	2	—	3
Bosnia	7	2	1	10
Botswana	2	1	1	4
Brazil	31	3	6	40
British Virgin Islands	0	—	—	0
Brunei	2	—	—	2
Bulgaria	5	12	—	17
Burma	12	—	6	18
Cambodia	2	—	9	11
Cameroon	3	2	7	12
Canada	6	—	2	8
Cayman Islands	1	—	—	1
Chile	12	—	—	12
China	145	8	10	163
Colombia	6	4	1	11
Costa Rica	2	—	1	3
Cote D'Ivoire	0	—	—	0
Croatia	4	16	3	23
Cuba	3	—	—	3
Cyprus	2	—	—	2
Czech Republic	2	2	—	4
Dem Rep Congo	2	1	—	3
Dominica	1	—	—	1
Dominican Rep (& Haiti)	3	—	—	3
DPR Korea	0	—	—	0
East Jerusalem	10	4	5	19
East Timor	1	—	—	1
Ecuador	2	—	2	4
Egypt	28	5	7	40
El Salvador	1	—	—	1
Eritrea	0	—	—	0
Estonia	3	—	2	5
Ethiopia	8	—	4	12
Fiji	1	—	—	1
Gambia	1	—	—	1
Georgia	6	13	2	21
Ghana	7	1	2	10
Guatemala	0	—	—	0
Guyana	1	—	2	3
Honduras	0	1	—	1
Hong Kong	24	4	2	30
Hungary	2	2	1	5
Iceland	0	—	—	0
India	45	6	1	52
Indonesia	31	7	7	45
Iran	21	1	3	25
Iraq	20	1	—	21
Israel	9	1	—	10
Jamaica	7	—	—	7

Country	*Core scheme*	*Central partnership*	*Fellows*	*Total*
Japan	5	—	—	5
Jordan	10	1	2	13
Kazakhstan	5	4	2	11
Kenya	11	2	7	20
Kiribati	0	—	—	0
Korea	34	—	—	34
Kosovo	8	6	—	14
Kuwait	3	—	1	4
Kyrgyzstan	2	4	—	6
Laos	0	—	—	0
Latvia	2	—	1	3
Lebanon	5	1	1	7
Lesotho	3	—	—	3
Liberia	0	—	2	2
Libya	6	—	—	6
Lithuania	2	—	—	2
Luxembourg	0	—	—	0
Macedonia	6	4	1	11
Madagascar	0	—	—	0
Malawi	3	9	2	14
Malaysia	23	2	6	31
Maldives	1	—	—	1
Mali	0	—	—	0
Malta	5	—	1	6
Mauritius	2	—	—	2
Mexico	35	1	6	42
Micronesia	1	—	—	1
Moldova	3	3	—	6
Mongolia	2	5	—	7
Montenegro	1	—	—	1
Montserrat	1	—	—	1
Morocco	5	—	—	5
Mozambique	3	1	1	5
Namibia	3	—	—	3
Nepal	2	1	5	8
New Zealand	0	2	1	3
Nicaragua	1	—	—	1
Niger	0	—	—	0
Nigeria	28	6	2	36
Oman	8	—	2	10
Pakistan	28	8	14	50
Panama	1	—	—	1
Papua New Guinea	1	—	—	1
Paraguay	1	—	—	1
Peru	1	1	—	2
Philippines	5	1	11	17
Poland	11	2	4	17
Qatar	0	—	—	0
Romania	7	13	1	21
Russia	29	10	2	41
Rwanda	2	—	—	2
Saudi Arabia	0	—	—	0
Senegal	2	—	2	4
Serbia	5	10	3	18
Seychelles	1	—	—	1
Sierra Leone	3	1	—	4
Singapore	4	—	3	7
Slovakia	3		1	4
Slovenia	8	—	—	8
Solomon Islands	0	—	—	0
South Africa	12	3	3	18

Country	*Core scheme*	*Central partnership*	*Fellows*	*Total*
Sri Lanka	4	1	—	5
St. Helena	1	—	—	1
St. Kitts and Nevis	0	—	—	0
St. Lucia	0	—	—	0
St. Vincent	2	—	—	2
Sudan	6	1	6	13
Swaziland	0	1	—	1
Syria	15	5	—	20
Taiwan	9	—	1	10
Tajikistan	3	12	—	15
Tanzania	6	3	1	10
Thailand	7	1	2	10
Tonga	0	1	—	1
Trinidad and Tobago	2	2	2	6
Tunisia	4	—	4	8
Turkey	33	2	6	41
Turkmenistan	2	2	—	4
Tuvalu	0	—	—	0
UAE	3	—	—	3
Uganda	5	6	—	11
Ukraine	12	2	—	14
Uruguay	2	—	1	3
USA	0	—	1	1
Uzbekistan	2	4	4	10
Vanuatu	0	—	—	0
Venezuela	4	—	2	6
Vietnam	13	4	8	25
Yemen	6	—	—	6
Zambia	7	14	—	21
Zimbabwe	14	14	—	28
Totals	1,070	300	233	1,603

China: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Chinese authorities on demonstrators and other human rights activists arrested as a result of their interventions over the situation in Tibet. [206281]

Meg Munn: We regularly urge the Chinese Government to protect the right of all individuals to peaceful expression of their views on all issues. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to Chinese Foreign Minister Yang on several occasions, since the recent unrest in Tibet, urging respect for human rights in Tibet, including the right to freedom of expression. His officials have raised the issue of arrests directly with the Chinese authorities.

In addition, following the unrest in March, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary took part in the informal Gymnich meeting of EU Foreign Ministers from 28 to 29 March. EU Foreign Ministers expressed their concern over Tibet, calling for an end to violence and asking that arrested persons be treated in conformity with international standards.

China: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent sentences handed down to seven nuns by the Chinese authorities in relation to the March and April 2008 protests in Tibet; and whether he has made any representations to the Chinese authorities about the sentences. [207917]

Meg Munn: We continue to receive a range of reports concerning the detention and arrests of numerous individuals in relation to the recent unrest in Tibet, including nearly 100 nuns in Khardze County, Sichuan Province. Together with EU partners, we continue to urge the Chinese Government to ensure due process for all detainees, including access to legal counsel of choice and access for independent observers to all trials. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary raised these concerns with their Chinese counterparts on several occasions since the protests. The EU raised these concerns at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, which took place in Slovenia on 15 May.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department's Bloggers website has cost. [206180]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The costs involved in setting up the blogging platform were given in my written response to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 828W.

The blogs are now part of the new FCO web platform. The ongoing costs of the blogs are included in the overall costs of the web platform, details of which were given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn), on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 398W.

Ethiopia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the status of the UN Peacekeeping Force located in the Ethiopia-Eritrea border zone. [206285]

Meg Munn: The status of the UN peacekeeping mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is currently being discussed at the UN Security Council, as the mission cannot fulfil its mandate because of the restrictions placed on it by Eritrea.

In February, UNMEE began to re-locate from the Temporary Security Zone, a strip of land between the Ethiopian and Eritrean army lines (running close to the Ethiopian/Eritrean border) established under the auspices of the Algiers Agreement. The re-location is now largely complete with just a small contingent on the Ethiopian side of the border and a small number of troops, guarding equipment, in Asmara, Eritrea.

EU Action

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals for *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislative instruments were put forward by the European Commission in each month since January 2007. [207581]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is readily available on the EU website at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/COMMonth.do?year=2007&month=01.

This website provides access to all Commission legislative proposals to the Council and other institutions since 1999.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether representations have been made to the government of Iran on the arrest of a number of prominent individuals who are adherents of the Baha'i faith in that country. [207727]

Dr. Howells: We are deeply concerned by the arrests of the informal Baha'i leadership in Tehran on 14 May and the ongoing persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran. We remain committed to pressing the government of Iran to address its poor human rights record, including by protecting the right to religious freedom and ending the discrimination of the Baha'is in Iran. Following a recommendation by the UK, the EU issued a public declaration on 21 May which expressed "serious concern about the continuing systematic discrimination and harassment of the Iranian Baha'is on the grounds of their religion" and called for the release of the detained individuals. We will continue to raise this issue with the Iranian authorities.

Iran: Foreign Relations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the circumstances and nature of the démarche by the Iranian government to the UK ambassador in Tehran on 12 May 2008 were; what response the Government made; and if he will make a statement. [207509]

Dr. Howells: Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Safari called in our ambassador in Tehran on 12 May. He raised a number of ongoing bilateral issues, including the recent Court of Appeal judgment on the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (MeK). Mr. Safari expressed concern about the verdict and gave an account of terrorist acts which the MeK had committed over the years. Our ambassador took note and handed over a copy of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement on the judgment, which set out the Government's position on the verdict.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his United States counterpart on the political situation in Iraq. [206818]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions with his US counterpart on the political situation in Iraq, covering a wide range of issues including how best to support the democratic Government of Iraq in their efforts to deliver security, political stability and economic growth for the Iraqi people.

Krishna Maharaj

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the US authorities on the case of Krishna Maharaj; whether British Government representatives will attend the June clemency hearing in Tallahassee; and if he will make a statement. [206963]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to Governor Crist on 12 May in respect of the outstanding plea for clemency for Mr. Maharaj. A consular official plans to attend the June clemency hearing.

Slovakia: Arms Trade

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has met the Slovakian Ambassador in London to discuss the issue of arms sales to non-EU countries. [207212]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No such meeting has occurred between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the Slovak ambassador in London to discuss the issue of arms sales to non-EU countries.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the scale and nature of arms transfers from Chad to Darfur-based rebel groups; and if he will make a statement. [206027]

Meg Munn: We understand that the Governments of Chad and Sudan have been supporting each other's rebels, including through transfers of equipment and arms. Through the UN and EU, and in bilateral contacts, we have called on both governments to fulfil their commitments under the Dakar Agreement of 13 March 2008 and previous agreements to end immediately their support to each other's armed groups.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the situation in Abyei, Sudan on clashes between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and local militias; and if he will make a statement. [206809]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the clashes between the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army and local militias from 14-17 May in Abyei, which resulted in the displacement of approximately 50,000 people from the town. A local cease-fire has been brokered by the UN Mission in Sudan.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the issue of the disputed border between North and South Sudan during their meetings with the Sudanese Foreign Minister of 28-30 April. They urged the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to engage with the Assessment and Evaluation Commission as a suitable body to broker a resolution for the border disputes.

Sudan: Overseas Residence

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British expatriates are living in Khartoum; what assessment he has made of their safety following the recent attacks by rebel groups on the city; and if he will make a statement. [206025]

Meg Munn: There are 726 people (British nationals and their dependants) registered with our embassy in Khartoum and eligible for British consular support.

We are not aware of any specific targeting of British nationals during the recent unrest and the security situation in Khartoum is now becoming more stable. However, we will continue to monitor this closely, in liaison with other diplomatic missions and international organisations as well as the Government of Sudan.

During the recent attacks, our embassy established a 24-hour operations centre to answer inquiries and provide advice and support to UK nationals on the latest security developments in and around Khartoum. This information was transmitted via our regularly updated Travel Advice and the Warden's network already in place in Khartoum.

Tourism: Death

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many deaths of British citizens have been reported in holiday resort areas in *(a)* Spain, *(b)* Italy and *(c)* Greece in each of the previous five years. [206697]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We do not maintain records of deaths specifically in resort areas. The following table provides the number of deaths of British nationals, including both UK visitors and UK residents, which required action by consular staff throughout Spain, Italy and Greece in each of the financial years from 2002-03 to 2006-07. All three countries were in the top five European destinations for UK tourists in 2006-07, and have a high number of UK residents.

Number of deaths of British nationals requiring action by Consular staff

	Financial year				
Country	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Spain	1,453	1,559	1,243	1,325	1,591
Italy	118	121	106	98	156
Greece	238	159	134	139	131

Treaty of Lisbon: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has made to revisit the proposed Lisbon treaty in the event of a no vote in the forthcoming referendum in the Republic of Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [207580]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Lisbon treaty shall enter into force only after being ratified by all 27 member states in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. In the UK, the EU (Amendment) Bill is currently being debated in the House of Lords. The UK does not speculate on the ratification processes of the Lisbon treaty in other member states.

USA: Terrorism

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the US Government requesting the disqualification of evidence extracted by torture in the trial of 9/11 suspects. [205055]

Dr. Howells: The Military Commissions Act, the US legislation which applies to the Military Commissions designed to try "unlawful enemy combatants" held at Guantanamo Bay, mandates that evidence obtained under torture is inadmissible. Admissibility of evidence in practice will be for the Military Commissions themselves to determine with respect to the individual cases brought. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has raised concerns about the implementation of the Military Commissions process with the US.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the security situation in Yemen. [206696]

Dr. Howells: There are no plans to make a statement at present.

Zimbabwe: Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the effects of the political situation in Zimbabwe on that country's education system. [206954]

Meg Munn: The education system, like so much of the infrastructure in Zimbabwe, has suffered as a result of the Mugabe regime's economic and political mismanagement. Many professional teachers have left the country, unable to survive on the low wages in the hyper-inflationary economy. Of those who have remained, many are now the targets of state-sponsored violence and intimidation because they acted as polling agents in the recent elections. This is only serving to encourage more teachers to leave Zimbabwe and further debilitate the education system. As a result of the economic crisis, schools now charge exorbitant user fees. Whereas in 2002 over 90 per cent. of children were in school, that figure is now thought to be fewer than 70 per cent.

TREASURY

Academies

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Prime Minister's Office's recent report on academies; and if he will make a statement. [206176]

Yvette Cooper: Reports from the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit comprise confidential policy advice to the Prime Minister and Ministers, and are not published.

Aggregates Levy

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the tonnage of aggregates extracted as a result of the operation of the aggregates levy, in each year since 2002, broken down by materials *(a)* subject and *(b)* not subject to the levy. [207701]

Angela Eagle: Trends in taxable aggregate extraction are available at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullaggr

This source also provides information on extraction of tax exempt and relieved aggregates by registered aggregate levy traders, though this is likely to be an incomplete picture as some exempt aggregates will be extracted at sites that are not registered for the levy.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of revenue raised from the aggregates levy was contributed to the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in each year since 2003. [207702]

Angela Eagle: The value of the aggregates levy sustainability fund has been fixed at £35 million each year across the UK. This figure is roughly 10 per cent. of aggregates levy receipts in each year since 2003.

Australia

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs have visited Australia in an official capacity since 1 January 2008; and what the purpose of each such visit was. [205876]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* There have been two visits to Australia by HM Treasury and HMRC staff since 1 January 2008 as follows.

Two Treasury officials visited Australia primarily to discuss matters relating to tax credits. There have been two HM Revenue and Customs staff making visits to Australia, on separate occasions, the first accompanying the Treasury officials mentioned above; the second to represent HMRC at two international groups, that co-ordinated the dates of meeting to minimise cost, and who meet twice a year split between the UK and Australia. The first group met with representatives from UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Netherlands to discuss and review progress on the implementation of work commissioned by the OECD Taxpayer Service Group. The second group "The International Standard Business Reporting Forum" met to resolve a number of international reporting standards to improve financial reporting to Governments. In addition it acts as a mutual assistance group of practitioners from the public and private sector.

Bank Notes

Mrs. James: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of £5 notes in circulation; whether he has taken steps to encourage the banking industry to make £5 notes available through cash machines; and if he will make a statement. [207492]

Kitty Ussher: Bank of England data show that at the end of February 2008 there was approximately £1,250 million of £5 notes in circulation.

In his speech at the Mansion House in June 2007, the Governor of the Bank of England highlighted that he was concerned about the availability of £5 notes to the public. He also stated that there was an ample supply of £5 notes available from the Bank of England and suggested that banks might need greater incentives to put the available £5 notes into circulation.

Since the Governor's speech, the annual growth rate of £5 notes in circulation has risen from around 5 per cent. to around 10 per cent. I understand that the Bank of England is currently holding discussions with commercial institutions about this matter.

Borrowing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether borrowing by housing associations is included in public sector borrowing figures; and if he will make a statement. [207288]

Angela Eagle: Classification of bodies is a matter for the independent Office for National Statistics, who are responsible for producing the national accounts to internationally agreed standards.

The ONS have classified housing associations to the private sector as non-financial corporations. As these are private sector bodies their transactions will not be recorded in the public sector finances.

Capital Gains Tax: Biotechnology

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration the Government has given to the possible effect on *(a)* the competitiveness of the UK biotechnology industry and *(b)* spending on health and biotech research and development of the removal of taper relief and the imposition of an 18 per cent. rate on capital gains in his recent budget report. [207553]

Angela Eagle: The Government take a range of factors into consideration when formulating tax policy, and keep all aspects of policy under review.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197167]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204387]

Angela Eagle: In the last 12 months, Ministers have visited *(a)* Scotland five times, *(b)* Wales five times and *(c)* Northern Ireland once in their official capacity. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days and (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201717]

Angela Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomof information quarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (ie meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 95 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 113, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007.

Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203854]

Angela Eagle: A list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in this Department for the financial year 2007-08 will be published in due course.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that its members of staff who are entitled to *(a)* added years and *(b)* additional voluntary contributions are aware of how to apply; [207426]

(2) what steps his Department takes to ensure that its staff are informed of the benefits of additional voluntary schemes at the commencement of their employment in the Civil Service. [207427]

Angela Eagle: Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Departmental Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projects sponsored by his Department were subject to Gateway reviews in each of the last four years; what status each project was assigned under such reviews; how much his Department spent on Gateway reviews in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [205869]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Gateway reports, including the findings and status, are conducted on a confidential basis for Senior Responsible Owners (SRO). OGC does not, therefore, make this information routinely public.

The following information provides a list of the Gateway Reviews undertaken on OGC projects over the last four years:

2004

Electronic Document and Records Management System
SACS Re-competition
Successful Delivery Programme
Zanzibar (P)
Efficiency Programme
Gsi Succession
Electronic Document and Records Management System
Kelly Action Plan Implementation Programme
London Relocation Project
Lyons Implementation Programme (Government Relocation Programme)
Efficiency Review - Procurement Workstream Programme (P)
OGCBS e-Sourcing Framework
Customer Database
SME Procurement Pilots
GW Low Risk Process
Flexible Benefits
Publishing Contract Recompetition
Leeds Modernisation
OGCBS MTS Extension
Web and Online Channel Dump
GPC Re-let
Web and Online Channel Development
L-Cat
Property Benchmarking Service
Gateway Upgrade System
OGCBS Customer Database
Norwich Workspace Refresh
Gateway Refresh
Infrastructure
SACS Recompetition
TH Relocation
GW Low Risk Process
IS/IT Infrastructure Project—Benefits Evaluation
SME Procurement Pilots
Medium Risk Delegation Programme
Government Buildings—Stanmore Disposal
Norwich Workspace Refresh
OGCBS e-Sourcing Frameworks
OGCBS MTS Extension
e-PIMS

2005

Norwich Workspace Refresh
Infrastructure II Project
Property Benchmarking Service
OGCBS e-Sourcing Project
SACS Recompetition
Norwich Workspace Refresh
Infrastructure II Project
Zanzibar (P)
Shared Accounting Services Programme
Web Strategy (SWIM)
e-PIMS—Electronic Property Information Mapping Service
Frameworks Programme
ICT Programme
Workspace Modernisation Programme
Postal Services
Efficiency Programme
Productive Time Change Agent
Web Strategy (SWIM)
Postal Services
Lyons Implementation Programme (Government Relocation Programme)
Efficiency Review—Procurement Workstream Programme (P)
Commercial Activity Recompetition Project
Kelly Action Plan Implementation Programme
Web Strategy (SWIM)
Gateway Upgrade System

2006

Norwich Workspace Refresh
Leeds Modernisation
Government Buildings—Stanmore Disposal
GW Low Risk Process
Gateway Refresh II
OGCBS Business Travel Project
SACS Recompetition (Repeat)
Zanzibar (P)
Postal Services
MC Engagement Programme
e-PIMS—Electronic Property Information Mapping Service
Commercial Activity Recompetition Project
Web Strategy (SWIM)
Efficiency Review—Procurement Workstream Programme (P)
Efficiency Programme
Maximising Future Value from OGC Gateway

Lyons Implementation Programme (Government Relocation Programme)

Commercial Activity Recompetition Project

2007

Gateway Refresh II

Gateway Upgrade System

SWIM—Web Modernisation Project

Property Benchmarking Service

OGCBS Shared Events Service

High Performing Property

2008

Consultancy Services Framework. Now known as External Resources Framework

The following information provides a list of the Gateway Reviews undertaken on HMT projects over the last four years:

2004

Civil Registration Review Programme

Risk Management Improvement Programme

Euro Preparation Programme

Civil Registration Review Programme

2011 Census Project

Risk Management Improvement Programme

2005

Civil Registration Review Programme

2011 Census Project

Civil Registration Review Programme

2006

2011 Census Project

2007

HMT Group Corporate Services Programme

HMT Group Corporate Services Programme

In principle OGC aims for Gateway reviews to be cost neutral by using and sharing civil service Gateway reviewers. However, where there is a shortfall in reviewers, or if there are specialist skills required, for example with construction projects, suitably accredited external resource may be used. OGC does not keep records of the cost of each individual review but OGC does keep records of total consultancy spend on Gateway reviews.

Spend on Gateway™ reviews

	£
2004-05	42,366
2005-06	39,933
2006-07	27,680
2007-08	8,288

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187531]

Angela Eagle: Information on the number and class of tickets purchased is not normally held, because the Treasury's accounting system records the costs of travel but not the number or type of tickets bought. However, for financial year 2006-07, the Treasury's travel management company provided information on the number and type of tickets purchased through them.

The combined spending of HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office on UK and overseas first class travel was £490,000. Tickets bought but subsequently refunded are excluded and some tickets are bought directly by the traveller, so this information is not a complete record of all tickets bought by the Treasury. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

The total costs of first class travel completed by Valuation Office Agency staff in the 2006-07 financial year are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, information on first class Eurostar travel is available separately and amounted to £1,745 in 2006-07.

The accounting systems of Office of Government Commerce, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Office for National Statistics, Royal Mint, Government Actuary's Department, National Savings and Investments and OGCbuying.solutions do not separately identify classes of travel and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Rates: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic properties have been re-banded as a result of adjoining terraced houses being knocked through and turned into a single dwelling house in each year since 2000. [207300]

Jane Kennedy: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what uses the revenue from auctioning allowances under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme will be put. [207163]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The framework for future phases of EU ETS is currently under discussion and as such no structure for auctioning in future phases has been decided. The revised EU ETS directive is due to be finalised later this year.

Any revenue raised through the use of auctioning would be considered part of general revenue streams, and the spending review process ensures that resources are allocated efficiently to deliver Government objectives.

Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187741]

Angela Eagle: Information on the number and type of Eurostar train tickets purchased is not normally held, because the Treasury's accounting system records the costs of travel but not the number or type of tickets bought. However, for financial year 2006-07, the Treasury's travel management company had provided information on the number and type of tickets purchased through them.

The combined spending of HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office was £283,000 first class and £17,000 second class. Tickets bought but subsequently refunded are excluded and some tickets are bought directly by the traveller, so this information is not a complete record of all Eurostar tickets bought by the Treasury.

Spending by the Valuation Office Agency was £1,745 on first class with no second class spending. The remaining agencies' accounting systems do not separately identify transport providers and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Income Tax: Tax Thresholds

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely additional cost to the public purse of higher rate tax relief for pension contributions arising from the proposed reduction in the threshold for higher rate tax. [207098]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* Latest detailed estimates of the annual cost of tax relief on registered pension schemes are available in Table 7.9 on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

Reducing the income level at which the higher rate applies by £600 will have no significant impact on the estimate of this relief.

Insurance: Disclosure of Information

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with the Financial Services Authority on mandatory commission disclosure for insurance brokers. [207893]

Kitty Ussher: Her Majesty's Treasury maintains a close dialogue with the Financial Services Authority that covers regulatory issues including mandatory commission disclosure for insurance brokers.

Insurance: Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to encourage the insurance industry to provide more insurance products aimed at low income households for both contents and buildings. [207315]

Kitty Ussher: In order to improve access to insurance, the Government have asked the financial inclusion task force to analyse three issues: which types of insurance are most needed by financially excluded customers; the barriers, including cost, to excluded customers of taking up these insurance products; and how these barriers might be overcome, drawing on evidence on the success of insurance with rent, and risk reduction projects.

The task force is due to report on its findings to Government shortly. The final report will be published on the financial inclusion task force website, and Government will consider these findings.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will seek discussions with registered social landlords to encourage take-up of contents insurance among their tenants. [207316]

Kitty Ussher: The financial inclusion Champions initiative was announced in December 2007 with an allocation of £12 million from the Financial Inclusion Fund. The Champions initiative will operate between 2008-11 and will seek to implement and coordinate financial inclusion activities at a local level, with work to promote demand for appropriate financial services, including insurance.

The financial inclusion Champions initiative will provide dedicated members of staff with experience of working on financial inclusion to work with housing associations and social landlords in specific geographical areas to promote and support the supply and take-up of insurance schemes targeted at social tenants.

Low Incomes

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to assist people on low incomes; and if he will make a statement. [208030]

Jane Kennedy: Since 1997 the Government have introduced a series of reforms to make work pay and to guarantee minimum weekly incomes for families with and without children. By October 2008, in real terms, families with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be, on average, £4,100 a year better off.

The working tax credit and the national minimum wage work together to provide a guaranteed income in work. The minimum income guarantee for single people aged 25 or over, and in full-time work, has increased by 30 per cent. in real terms since 1999.

On 13 May 2008, the Chancellor announced further support for low and middle-income families for 2008-09. For the current tax year, income tax personal allowances will be increased by £600 for all tax payers under 65. Around 22 million basic-rate taxpayers will benefit from this change.

The Government will set out plans for future years in the 2008 pre-Budget report, with the aim to continue the same level of support for those on lower incomes.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 5 March 2008, on the abolition of the 10 per cent. tax rate (PO reference: 1/54880/2008). [202160]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 14 May.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 5 March 2008, on benefits and tax thresholds, PO reference: 1/55049/2008. [202393]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 April 2008]*: I replied to the hon. Member on 14 May.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 April from the hon. Member for Walsall North regarding a constituent. [207723]

Kitty Ussher: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Gordon on capital financing in Scotland and future projects. [207848]

Yvette Cooper: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

National Insurance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the additional cost or saving to the Exchequer that would arise from collecting employee national insurance on an annual cumulative basis similar to PAYE. [207965]

Jane Kennedy: At Budget 2006 the Government announced that they would review the case for aligning income tax and national insurance, with the aim of reducing administrative burdens on employers and improving outcomes for those on lower incomes. The report "Income tax and national insurance alignment an evidence-based assessment" published at pre-Budget report in October 2007 sets out the conclusions of the review, and Chapter 3 includes detailed analysis of the costs and benefits of moving to an annual and cumulative NICs system.

The report can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/B/B/pbr_csr07_incometax713.pdf

Pre-School Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending the early years education entitlement to 20 hours per week for *(a)* three to five year olds in workless households, *(b)* children living in relative poverty and *(c)* all three to five year olds. [205622]

Yvette Cooper: The CSR settlement for DCSF announced at Budget 2007 includes more than £3 billion per year on funding the free early education entitlement. An additional £590 million over the CSR period will extend that entitlement to 15 hours per week by 2010-11. The free-entitlement funding is in addition to significant increases in funding for other Sure Start, Childcare and early years policies, such as children's centres and improved quality provision, leading to spending over £1.6 billion by 2010-11, an increase of over £340 million during the CSR period.

To estimate costs of an extension to 20 hours would require an analysis of childcare costs and other factors at the time of implementation, and of the impact on both supply of and demand for provision in the childcare market. Costing a targeted extension would require an assessment of any extra administrative costs from targeting and any differences in the cost of making provision available to particular groups.

Public Expenditure: Defence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes to the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance for 2008-09 he intends to make in relation to the Ministry of Defence; and if he will make a statement. [207060]

Yvette Cooper: Such changes to the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance for 2008-09 as will affect the Ministry of Defence's budgeting framework are summarised in the Guidance on page 3.

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/4/1/consoldated_budguid010208.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs received the letter from the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on the credit appeal of a constituent (reference chm/08593/2008); and when he expects to bring the appeal to tribunal. [208108]

Jane Kennedy: The HM Revenue and Customs acting chairman received my right hon. Friend's letter on 6 March 2008.

HMRC have now settled this appeal direct with the customer.

Revenue and Customs: Kendal

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects a decision on the retention or closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Kendal to be made; and if he will make a statement. [207494]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC has recently announced to staff its intention to put forward proposals for consultation for all its offices that have not yet been reviewed, including Kendal, by early June. It hopes to announce decisions on the future of those offices by the end of the year.

Subsidies: Agriculture

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to publish his recent letter to other EU finance ministers on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. [207324]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor's letter of 13 May to the Slovenian Finance Minister is available on the Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/1/chx_letter130508.pdf

Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the ministerial duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household are, with particular reference to communication with Buckingham Palace. [207736]

Angela Eagle: The duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Chamberlain are not a matter for the Treasury.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 12-13WS, on tax credits, for what reason the numbers of overpaid awards were expressed in multiples of a thousand rather than in millions in the statement. [207733]

Jane Kennedy: The text of the written statement mirrored the presentation of the numbers in the table on page 3 of the 'Finalised awards, Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics 2006-07, Supplement on payments'.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average number of telephone calls to the 101 number were per month in *(a)* the Isle of Wight, *(b)* Cardiff, *(c)* Sheffield, *(d)* Leicester City and Rutland and *(e)* Northumberland and Tyne and Wear in the period of the pilots. [203602]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The average number of telephone calls to the 101 number per month by partnership area over the period of the pilots were as follows:

Partnership	*Average calls per month*
(a) Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	17,123
(b) Cardiff	5,685
(c) Sheffield	5,023
(d) Leicester City and Rutland	3,924
(e) Northumberland and Tyne and Wear	13,873

We do not have data for the Isle of Wight, as requested, as that area was included in the whole of the partnership which includes Hampshire. Also the Leicester City and Rutland partnership expanded to cover Melton and Harborough.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the 101 number in *(a)* the Isle of Wight, *(b)* Cardiff, *(c)* Sheffield, *(d)* Leicester City and Rutland and *(e)* Northumberland and Tyne and Wear pilots. [203604]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The evaluation of the five pilot areas found that the 101 service had successfully improved public access to and satisfaction in the community safety services in all areas. Through greater partnership working and better information from the public about what problems are happening where, the 101 service had helped local police and councils to target their resources more effectively and efficiently and improve the delivery of those services to the public.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were arrested for alcohol-related offences in Buckingham constituency in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [206942]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to reimburse the outstanding costs incurred by local authorities in caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and what plans she has to provide local authorities with 100 per cent. of their future funding to care for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. [203514]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office provides a grant to local authorities for the provision of support to unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged under 18. All authorities have been fully funded up to national rates in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 for cases supported under the grant instructions. Those authorities on enhanced rates have also been fully funded up to their enhanced rate claim value for 2005-06 and 2006-07. In addition the authorities identified as gateways received 100 per cent. of special circumstances claimed for 2005-06 and 70 per cent. for 2006-07. The other authorities that claimed were awarded 82.5 per cent. and 38.5 per cent. of their claim respectively.

All outstanding claims for 2007-08 are due from local authorities by 31 July 2008.

There are no plans to increase funding levels for previous years, and the budget remains fixed for 2007-08. Discussions on this matter are on- going with representatives from the Local Government Association and London councils.

In January 2008, we set out in the paper "Better Outcomes: The Way Forward—improving the Care of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children" (a copy of which is in the Library, DEP2008-0274) our plans to enter into new arrangements with selected local authorities who would become specialists in the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. These new arrangements would simplify funding and mean that the specialist authorities receive payment in full for the services they provide.

Asylum: Grants

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates asylum seeker support grant instructions were issued to local authorities in each year since 2001. [203519]

Jacqui Smith: Asylum grant instructions have been issued on the following dates to local authorities since 2001:

	Instructions	*Date issued*
2001-2	Combined instructions for Adults and Families (A&F) and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	8 February 2002
2002-3	A and F	1 May 2002
	UASC	13 June 2002
	UASC	31 December 2002
2003-4	A and F	16 June 2003
	UASC	8 April 2004
2004-5	Combined instructions for A and F / UASC	8 November 2004
2005-6	Combined instructions for A and F / UASC	20 June 2005
2006-7[1]	UASC	4 May 2006
2007-8[1]	UASC	14 August 2007
2008-9[1]	Instructions yet to be issued	—

[1] Interim provision for A and F ceased 6 April 2006, so no A and F grant instructions were issued for 2006-07 onwards.

Border UK Agency: Uniforms

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the *(a)* design and *(b)* manufacture and distribution of uniforms for the UK Border Agency. [205464]

Mr. Byrne: We are not yet in a position to provide the cost of the design, manufacture and distribution of uniforms for the UK Border Agency. We are currently scoping the requirements for a single uniform for front-line officers. The costs will be dependent on the commercial and procurement solutions delivered.

Community Policing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which advertising agency her Department contracted to design the advertising campaign for neighbourhood policing teams; and what the value of that contract was. [204923]

Mr. Byrne: The advertising agency that designed the neighbourhood policing ads that ran on March 31 2008 is M and C Saatchi.

We have given the media costs of the campaign (in answer to PQ answered on 20 May 2008, *Official Report,* columns 225-26W,) but the agency fee is commercially confidential.

Community Support Officers: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans she has to provide funding for police community support officers in North Yorkshire beyond the expiry of the original allocation period; [201117]

(2) for what period the initial funding allocated to police community support officers in North Yorkshire was provided. [201118]

Mr. McNulty: In 2008-09, funding for neighbourhood policing, including PCSOs, in North Yorkshire is £3.2 million (2.7 per cent. more than in 2007-08) and we remain committed to providing this funding in each of the CSR years. The Home Office first provided funding for 30 police community support officers (PCSOs) in North Yorkshire in 2003-04. Continuation funding is still provided towards the cost of those PCSOs and for those recruited in subsequent years for which further PCSO allocations were made through the Neighbourhood Policing Fund.

Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal offences related to the misappropriation of proofs of identity have been *(a)* reported and *(b)* brought to trial in each of the last five years; in how many such prosecutions convictions were achieved; and what information has been collated on the number of victims of such crimes from answers to the new questions incorporated into the British Crime Survey in 2005 on such matters. [178629]

Jacqui Smith: In terms of recorded crime and court proceedings, statistics are not available in the form requested.

The use of another person's identification details (or the use of false identification details), often referred to as identity theft, is not in itself an offence in law. It is the action that is undertaken, using those identification details, that needs to be considered in respect of whether an offence has occurred. As such no specific information is available.

Most instances of 'Identity Theft' come to light when victim's details are used to obtain goods, services or money using credit arrangements or loans. Instances of this should be recorded under the new Home Office offence classifications 'Fraud by False Representation Other Fraud' or 'Obtaining Services Dishonestly'. These new offences were created following the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006 and were introduced into the recorded crime series with effect from April 2007.

Where bank, credit card, or store card accounts are opened using identities to which the individuals are not entitled, and then used to commit fraud, then an offence of 'Fraud by False Representation Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (NOT eBay or Pay Pal)' should be recorded.

If there is no intent to commit fraud and there is evidence that an account has been created using a false, stolen or improperly obtained identity document contained within the Identity Cards Act 2006 then an offence under the new classification 'Possession of False Documents' should be recorded.

Statistics for all the new recorded crime offence classifications referred to above will be available for 2007-08 and will be published in July 2008. Information on fraud and forgery offences recorded by the police using the old classifications is available in table 2.04 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2006/07'. The table can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107chap2.xls

Equivalent data for court proceedings and cautions for fraud offences (under the old classifications) can be found in the Criminal Statistics England and Wales publication which can be accessed at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/crim-stats-2006-tag.pdf

Tables 2.8 and 2.13 show prosecutions and crown court trials for fraud and forgery and table 3.16 shows convictions and cautions for fraud and forgery broken down by offence class.

Court proceedings data for 2007 for the offences referred to above will not be available until the autumn of 2008.

With regard to information collated by the British Crime Survey on victims of such crimes, according to the 2006-07 BCS, 2 per cent. of adults had experienced their personal details being used in the last year without their permission in one or more of the ways asked about. This proportion includes those who came to know about the identity fraud, but the true figure could be higher because some respondents may not have known about the deception.

Detailed information from the 2005-06 BCS on ID fraud is contained in section 3.5 of Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/07 entitled 'Mobile phone theft, plastic card and identity fraud: Findings from the 2005/06 British Crime Survey'. A copy of this publication is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1007.pdf

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent evidence she has collated on the correlation between the level of crime and *(a)* police numbers and *(b)* police funding. [198506]

Mr. McNulty: There is no simple relationship between levels of crime and police numbers, and police funding. I refer the hon. Member to the recent Government response to the Home Affairs Committee—Second Special Report, Session 2006-07, Appendix: Government Response in particular page 1, response after paragraph 2:

> "..... crime is affected by a range of factors and it is therefore too crude simply to compare increases in police funding with changes in crime and then draw firm conclusions about the effectiveness of the police in reducing crime-not least because increases in policing and their visibility can in fact provide the public with more confidence to report more crime incidents. Current Home Office research shows that, when controlling for some of these factors—for example changes in the economy, demography and social factors—increases in police strength, visibility and focus have had a significant impact on reducing crime."

A copy of the Government's response to the second report is available on the Parliament website on the following link:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmhaff/1092/109204.htm

Crime: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects the National Ballistics Intelligence Service Database, the National Firearms Register on the Police National Computer and the National Firearms Licensing Management System to be able to share data. [194664]

Mr. McNulty: The potential requirements for the sharing of information between the National Ballistics Intelligence Service Database (NABIS) and the National Firearms Licensing Management System was examined, and discussed, in detail by key stakeholders (including forensic and investigatory professionals) throughout the lifetime of the project management process.

It was found that the potential crossover between the data held by the systems was very small, due to the very low instances of legally held firearms being used in gun crime and the small overlap in information shared between the two applications. Furthermore, the data descriptors of 'firearms recovered at Scenes of Crime' and 'firearms being licensed' may be somewhat different and, as a result, inquiries would be passed from NABIS to expert firearms officers in the Licensing Departments. As a consequence, it was agreed that any risk of legally held firearms being used for criminal purposes was so low that given the difficulty of automating a matching process between systems, the cost of building such an interface would outweigh any perceived benefits.

The NABIS system has been designed to accredited police corporate data model standards, which means that information sharing may be possible in the future providing that there is a business case to do so.

Departmental Film

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many films have been produced in *(a)* video, *(b)* DVD and *(c)* other digital formats by her Department in the last two years; and at what cost. [202872]

Jacqui Smith: Film is used throughout the Home Office and its agencies for training purposes and to communicate with its staff. The number of films and costs is not information which is either centrally held or readily collated so could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent edition of her Department's staff handbook. [202866]

Jacqui Smith: I am arranging for a copy of the Home Office staff handbook to be placed in the Library.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) her Department and (ii) agencies which report to her Department. [200128]

Mr. Byrne: The following table outlines the 0845 and 0870 telephone numbers used by the Department and the agencies that report to it. There are no 0800 telephone numbers in use.

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0870 521 0410	Passport advice line	Phone
0870 240 8090	Passport advice line (text phone service)	Minicon
0870 243 4477	Passport enquiries for High Street Partners	Phone
0870 243 1902	Passport complaints	Phone
0845 121 0046	Authentication by Interview (ABI) booking line	Phone
0845 603 7788	GRO Certificate Services	Phone
0870 125 1256	Siemens Business Services Query Letters	Phone
0870 909 0778	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure dispute line	Phone
0870 909 0844	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure application line	Phone
0870 909 0223	Criminal Records Bureau Welsh language line	Phone
0870 909 0344	Criminal Records Bureau	Minicon
0870 909 0811	Criminal Records Bureau general inquiries	Phone
0870 909 0822	Criminal Records Bureau registration information line	Phone
0870 241 4680	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Phone
0870 241 4786	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Fax
0870 220 2000	TOGETHER (advice line for practitioners on tackling antisocial behaviour)	Phone
0870 336 9031	Contact Private Office to Jacqui Smith	Fax
0870 336 9032	Contact Private Office to Lord West	Fax
0870 336 9033	Contact Private Office to Vernon Coaker	Fax
0870 336 9034	Contact Private Office to Liam Byrne	Fax
0870 336 9035	Contact Private Office to Tony McNulty	Fax
0870 336 9036	Contact Private Office to Meg Hillier	Fax
0870 336 9048	Contact Parliamentary Team	Fax
0870 336 9045	Contact Ministers' special advisers	Fax
0870 336 9041	Contact Private Office Management Support Unit	Fax
0870 336 9037	Contact Permanent Secretary's Office	Fax
0845 010 6677	UKBA Employers' Helpline	Phone
0845 039 8002	PROSPECTS helpline	Phone
0845 601 2298	UKBA Evidence and Enquiry line	Phone
0870 240 3781	Immigration Enquiry Bureau (enforcement and removals—recorded message only)	Phone
0845 602 1739	Enquiries about asylum support applications	Phone
0870 606 7766	Immigration Enquiry Bureau	Phone
0870 241 0645	Requests for immigration application forms	Phone
0845 010 5200	Nationality telephone enquiries	Phone
0870 521 0224	UKBA Work Permits Literature order line	Phone
0845 600 0914	Asylum Support Customer Contact Centre	Phone
0870 241 6523	Enquiries about the work of the UKBA Complaints Unit and advice to callers about how to complain	Phone
0845 602 1465	UKBA MP's Hotline fax line	Fax
0845 601 1145	National Asylum Support fax line	Fax
0845 601 1143	National Asylum Support fax line	Fax
0845 609 0395	UKBA MP's Hotline	Phone
0845 601 1150	National Asylum Support Service/MP's Hotline	Phone
0845 010 5555	UK Visas (pre-recorded information line)	Phone

Departmental Training

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on away days for staff in her Department in each of the last five years. [202871]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on staff away days. To provide the requested detail would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of staff employed by her Department and its agencies had record checks processed by the Criminal Records Bureau before being made an offer of employment in each year since 2002. [205116]

Jacqui Smith: A Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check is primarily a requirement for posts that involve working with children and/or vulnerable adults. Home Office headquarters and the Criminal Records Bureau do not require staff to undergo CRB checks prior to being offered employment.

The UK Border Agency have carried out 1,449 CRB checks in total for staff since 2002. A breakdown by year could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) only require staff within the Interview Office Network to undergo CRB checks. The network has been established over the past three years. The percentage of IPS staff employed who had CRB checks before being made an offer of employment in each year was as follows.

	Percentage of staff
2005-06	1.6
2006-07	13.5
2007-08	1.4

Departmental Written Questions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Parliamentary Questions her Department declined to answer on grounds of *(a)* disproportionate cost and *(b)* information not held centrally in each of the last five years. [198635]

Jacqui Smith: We are unable to provide the information in the format requested.

Detection Rates

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* detection rate and *(b)* sanction detection rate of (i) recorded offences, (ii) offences of violence against the person, (iii) homicides and (iv) burglary for each police force was in each year since 1988. [195561]

Jacqui Smith: The available information is given in the tables placed in the House Library. Homicide detection rates for individual police forces are only available from 2000-01 onwards.

Non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies she has conducted into the viability of a 999 text message service for use by members of the public. [205720]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

My Department has not conducted such studies. Short Message Service (SMS) text is a store and forward medium with no guarantee of delivery, and in most cases the sender will not know whether a message has been received. This means that SMS text is not generally suitable for emergency calls.

However, BERR officials, working with other Government Departments, the telecommunication service providers, the emergency services and representatives of deaf and other user organisations, have identified a technical solution for providing an emergency SMS text service for the deaf, and those with hearing or speech impairment. Technical development will be necessary before trials can be carried out. It is hoped that the work will be completed later this year. The service will provide an alternative option for those who routinely use SMS text and either do not use a text relay service or may be in a situation where it is not available.

As SMS does not provide a real time service and cannot be a substitute for voice or text relay services, any emergency SMS service will only be available to those who have registered with the service and accept its limitations.

European Police Office: Finance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 120WS, on Europol, how much the UK contributes annually to the organisation's budget. [205600]

Jacqui Smith: Europol is funded by direct member state contributions on the basis of each country's gross domestic product. The amount of the contribution will vary year on year depending on both the agreed budget and taking account of the financial outturn at the end of each year. The United Kingdom's contributions for the six years 2002-07 are as follows:

	€ million
2002	7.8
2003	9.1
2004	9.2
2005	8.8
2006	7.4
2007	8.4

The Europol budget for 2008 is €63.9 million and the maximum United Kingdom contribution—assuming all the budget was called up—would be €9.65 million.

Firearms: Injuries

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people carrying replica firearms were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed as a result of police action in each of the last 10 years; [198592]

(2) how many people carrying replica guns were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by the police in each of the last 10 years. [200240]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold the information requested. The collection of this information is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Gating Orders

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* gating orders have been made under the provision of section 129A of the Highways Act 1980 and *(b)* public inquiries have been held into proposed gating orders when objections have been received from members of the public. [207087]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* Details of the number of "gating orders", granted for crime or antisocial behaviour purposes under section 129A of the Highways Act 1980 are collected by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and are provided in the table placed in the House Library. These orders came into force on 1 April 2006. Details of the number of public inquiries that have been held into proposed "gating orders" when objections have been received from members of the public are not collected centrally.

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples were stored on the national DNA database at the end of each year since the database was created. [191172]

Jacqui Smith: It is not possible to give the total number of profiles on the database at the end of each year, however, the table shows the number of profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by English and Welsh police forces in each year since its inception. The numbers cannot be added to give the total number of profiles on the NDNAD, as some profiles will have been removed throughout each year.

It should be noted that the number of subject profiles held on the database is not the same as the number of individuals with a profile on the database. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded.

	Crime scene profiles added	*Subject profiles added*
1995-96	1,872	32,999
1996-97	5,022	78,899
1997-98	12,546	123,200
1998-99	12,720	227,624
1999-2000	17,116	191,173
2000-01	27,259	373,496
2001-02	39,425	470,016
2002-03	59,265	444,427
2003-04	58,385	431,771
2004-05	57,024	480,337
2005-06	66,499	625,859
2006-07	52,763	667,747
2007-08	48,055	541 ,920

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes with a DNA match to the Scottish DNA database resulted in *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* conviction in each year since 1998. [205597]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office does not hold the information requested as this is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes with a DNA match to the Scottish DNA database resulted in *(a)* a direct and *(b)* an indirect police detection in England and Wales in each year since 1998. [205598]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office does not hold the information requested as this is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost was of removing DNA samples from the National DNA database in each year since 1995; [205636]

(2) what the cost was of removing one individual's DNA sample from the National DNA database in the most recent period for which figures are available. [205637]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Decisions on the removal of DNA profiles from the National DNA Database (NDNAD), and the destruction of the DNA sample, rest with the chief officer of the police force which took the sample. The chief officer may consult the Association of Chief Police Officers Criminal Record Office (ACPO CRO), a specialist unit which provides advice on the removal of DNA and fingerprint records, before making a decision. If a chief officer decides that a DNA profile should be removed from the NDNAD, they will instruct the NDNAD Custodian that the profile be removed and the DNA sample destroyed.

There will be some associated costs arising for the police force which took the sample; for the ACPO CRO, if the request is referred to them for advice; for the NDNAD; and for the forensic supplier laboratory where the sample is stored. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of removing profiles and samples from general NDNAD service delivery costs or the general administrative costs of the other organisations involved.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual cost was of retaining one individual DNA sample on the National DNA database in the most recent period for which figures are available. [205640]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* A DNA sample is biological material containing cells with a person's DNA, whereas a DNA profile is a numerical sequence stored on the NDNAD, which is an information technology system. A subject sample is taken from an arrested person, usually by means of a swab which picks up cells from the inside of the cheek. A crime scene sample is one retrieved from material at a crime scene, for example blood, semen or saliva. A DNA sample is analysed to produce a DNA profile by an accredited supplier of forensic science services. A DNA profile is a numerical sequence, representing part of the DNA in the sample, which can be entered on the National DNA Database.

The costs of processing, and retaining, DNA samples fall to individual police forces. They vary depending on the contractual relationship between the police force and the forensic supplier, which is commercially confidential.

The cost of retaining DMA profiles is the cost of running the NDNAD Information Technology system. In the most recent year for which figures are available, 2006-07, this was £2,041,743. Dividing this figure by the number of subject and crime scene profiles held gives an average cost per profile of 45 pence for that year.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes with a DNA match to records in the Scottish DNA Database there were in Scotland in each year since 1998. [205642]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 May 2008]* The Home Office does not hold the information requested as this is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many DNA profiles were on the national DNA database at the end of each financial year since 1994; [206169]

(2) how many individual DNA profiles were *(a)* added to and *(b)* removed from the national DNA database in each (i) month and (ii) financial year since 1994; [206170]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* It is not possible to give the total number of profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) at the end of each year, however, the table gives the number of profiles added to the NDNAD by English and Welsh police forces in each year since its inception. The numbers cannot be added to give the total number of profiles on the NDNAD, as some profiles will have been removed throughout each year.

It should be noted that the number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals with a profile on the database. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded.

For figures on the number of removals from the NDNAD, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W.

	Crime scene profiles added	*Subject profiles added*
1995-96	1,872	32,999
1996-97	5,022	78,899
1997-98	12,546	123,200
1998-99	12,720	227,624
1999-2000	17,116	191,173
2000-01	27,259	373,496
2001-02	39,425	470,016
2002-03	59,265	444,427
2003-04	58,385	431,771
2004-05	57,024	480,337
2005-06	66,499	625,859
2006-07	52,763	667,747
2007-08	48,055	541,920

Identity Cards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* British citizens will be required to carry identity cards on their person. [206514]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* There will be no requirement to carry identity cards on the person.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department has in place for processing suspected illegal immigrants when the immigration detention estate is unable to provide accommodation. [202575]

Mr. Byrne: If the immigration detention estate is unable to provide accommodation, alternatives to detention are considered for those who are liable to detention. This includes reporting conditions which restricts an individual's place of residence, employment or occupation, physically reporting to a police or an immigration reporting centre and electronic monitoring.

Electronic monitoring currently takes two forms: telephone reporting, using voice recognition techniques, and tagging. These are used, in combination with face to face contact at immigration reporting centres, to improve compliance with the requirements the UK Border Agency places on people to remain in contact.

Further information on detention and alternatives to detention can be found in chapter 55 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance available to view at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/detentionandremovals/

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is given to police forces in England and Wales on managing illegal immigrants; how many illegal immigrants were released by police in England and Wales and directed towards the nearest immigration centre in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the previous 10 years; what estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants released by police in England and Wales and sent to an immigration centre who then failed to attend in each year; and how many illegal immigrants were detained by police forces in England and Wales in each year. [202717]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) works in partnership with the police with whom they have agreements in place on handling illegal immigrants. Following arrest, the UKBA are committed to responding to all confirmed drops of illegal immigrants as a matter of priority.

Information on the number of illegal immigrants released and detained by the police in England and Wales is not collated centrally and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 804W, on immigration: housing, what conditions are attached to tenancies created by the transfer of existing properties to the private rented market; what requirements there are on private sector providers who undertake such tenancies; and if she will make a statement. [196770]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The conditions attached to tenancies created by the transfer of properties to the private rented sector is a contractual matter between a private sector provider and the local authority concerned and is commercial in confidence.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 28 February 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton, with regard to Mr. Floyd B. Smith. [203889]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 28 April 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 9 April 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms R. Hughes. [206964]

Jacqui Smith: A reply was sent on 20 May 2008.

Migration: Statistics

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to improve her Department's information and data on *(a)* gross and net flows of immigration and *(b)* the geographical distribution of the immigrant population. [206846]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 2 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what steps will be taken to improve information on the flows and the geographical distribution of international migration. (206846)

Much work has already been carried out to improve these statistics. The sample size of the International Passenger Survey was increased to collect more information on the flows of emigrants. Improvements to the methodology used for distributing migrants to the local authority level in the mid year population estimates were implemented (based principally on use of household and port survey sources in combination at regional level and IPS questions on length of stay). These changes were implemented in the mid-2006 population estimates issued in August 2007 and were used to revise previously published estimates for 2002 to 2005. They also fed into subsequent ONS population and labour market statistics (e.g. 2006-based National Population Projections, 2006-based Subnational Population Projections to be published in June 2008 and Labour Force survey reweightings issued in May 2008).

On 4 February 2008, the Minister for Local Government announced to the House that a cross-Government programme would be put in place to improve population and migration statistics, driven by senior officials from central Government and the Local Government Association, and led by the National Statistician. It will take forward the recommendations of the 2006 interdepartmental Task Force on Migration Statistics.

A specific objective of the work programme relates to gaining better information on migrants as they enter or leave the country, and therefore making improvements to gross and net migration flows. This work includes:

> improvements to port surveys to ensure they are more focussed on collecting migration information, cover more emigrant flows, and involve more of the ports that migrants typically arrive at or depart from,
>
> a longer term aim of using data from the new e-borders programme (and other controlled migration systems) that will collect detailed administrative data on migrants.

The programme also includes research relating to improving the geographic distribution of migration within the UK, for example:

> improving the statistical methodology of population estimation to take into account administrative sources that provide a more timely picture of the distribution of migrant populations than the 2001 Census,
>
> developing methods for sharing key administrative data sources such as the Department for Work and Pensions data on benefits and the Department for Children, Schools and Families Schools Census data,
>
> developing new and timely indicators of the impact of migration at the local level.

This is high priority work for the ONS and other government departments and is being progressed with due pace.

Missing Persons

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people reported missing were subsequently found to have been missing as a result of *(a)* abduction and *(b)* being the victim of another criminal offence in each year since 1997; and how many of these were not found until their death. [204137]

Jacqui Smith: Statistics on the number and circumstances of people who are reported missing are not collected centrally. Research has shown that the vast majority of missing persons return safely soon after going missing and the overall proportion of missing persons who are found to have been the victim of homicide is very low.

Figures on child abduction are collated by the Home Office and the figures for the last five years are given in the following table. It is not possible, however, to correlate these with the overall number of missing people.

	Number of abductions (including attempts)
2002-03	846
2003-04	930
2004-05	1,035
2005-06	919
2006-07	697

Of those people that go missing, it is not possible to determine how many are victims of other crimes. The Children's Society report "Stepping Up: The Future of

Runaways Services August 2007" explains the risks faced by young people who go missing. The Parents and Abducted Children Together (PACT) report entitled "Every Five Minutes" also includes an overview of the risks faced by children who go missing.

The national Missing Persons Bureau (MPB) will seek to develop national information to support local police operations. One of the priorities for the MPB is to carry out a strategic assessment on the missing person phenomenon and to produce a "problem profile", thereby establishing a baseline on which to formulate, develop and measure future policy initiatives in close consultation with the missing persons Strategic Oversight Group.

Money Laundering

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the recommendations of the SARS review published by Sir Stephen Lander in March 2006 have been implemented. [205774]

Jacqui Smith: The first Annual Report of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) Regime, published on 28 November 2007, gives an account of progress made against the recommendations of Sir Stephen Lander's Review by regime participants. The Financial Intelligence Unit, located within the Serious Organised Crime Agency, successfully addressed all 24 recommendations.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2341W, on offenders: deportation, how many of the 250 sentence-expired foreign prisoners from countries where difficulties arise in enforcing removal had been serving a sentence for an offence of a violent or sexual nature; and how many have been detained under immigration powers following the expiry of their sentence for more than *(a)* 12 months, *(b)* two years and *(c)* three years. [203356]

Mr. Byrne: Centrally collated information for foreign national prisoners where deportation action or removal is being pursued will only list the latest offence. It would be necessary to examine individual case files to ascertain whether the individual has previously been convicted of violent or sexual offences, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee in her letter of 18 February that all of the 250 foreign national prisoners that are detained awaiting deportation action and are from countries where there are difficulties in enforcing removal have been detained under immigration powers for nine months or more. The longest any individual has been detained under immigration legislation powers is around two years.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the armed protection that will need to be provided for participants and other visitors during the London Olympic Games; and what estimate has been made of the cost of such provision. [201886]

Jacqui Smith: The development of the Olympic Security Programme is led by the Olympic Security Directorate, located within the Metropolitan Police Service, but reporting functionally to the Home Office Olympic Security Director. Protective security, including the consideration of armed protection requirements, is a key part of the planning process that is being undertaken. Any such requirements will be subject to the delivery and approval of a costed security plan being prepared by the Olympic Security Directorate. Provision will be met from within the maximum funding envelope of £600 million.

However, we do not comment upon protective security arrangements and their associated costs for categories of individuals as to do so could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect security of those concerned.

Police

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 972-4W, on police, if she will update the information in the answer with the most recent figures. [201602]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Police precept (Band D) by force 1997-98 to 2008-09

£

Force	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Avon and Somerset	52.04	54.86	60.62	67.59	72.66	83.40	111.64	125.09	131.34	137.84	147.17	154.32
Bedfordshire	52.51	55.84	61.36	66.98	70.26	78.69	93.44	107.17	111.98	117.55	123.43	135.28
Cambridgeshire	51.03	48.24	52.11	62.46	68.04	94.59	113.31	129.33	135.54	142.29	149.40	156.87
Cheshire	51.16	53.86	56.28	61.06	64.66	73.54	88.10	97.71	102.60	108.49	116.03	135.75
Cleveland	54.87	48.43	62.55	65.58	69.51	96.13	120.22	136.84	143.68	150.72	158.10	173.87
Cumbria	58.20	72.35	78.27	84.23	90.60	100.48	130.71	150.28	155.43	163.08	171.09	179.46
Derbyshire	51.31	57.30	65.85	71.12	75.38	91.96	111.77	122.88	129.02	135.15	141.91	148.44
Devon and Cornwall	49.79	48.30	53.52	58.87	61.81	73.80	103.27	113.39	119.62	125.53	131.73	142.19
Dorset	63.59	70.61	77.13	84.42	92.25	103.50	123.39	135.36	142.11	149.13	156.51	164.25
Durham	52.20	48.60	50.40	52.65	56.43	64.44	79.56	91.53	96.03	100.80	135.72	142.47
Essex	54.09	62.28	65.07	67.95	71.01	77.67	92.97	99.27	104.76	110.97	116.46	122.22

Police precept (Band D) by force 1997-98 to 2008-09

£

Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Gloucestershire	51.17	57.74	68.90	77.98	82.05	94.01	142.59	156.71	162.90	170.96	179.49	188.45
Hampshire	51.75	50.13	53.91	55.08	59.04	75.15	97.29	108.36	113.76	119.43	125.[illegible]7	135.54
Hertfordshire	51.51	58.83	63.54	67.99	72.39	81.01	98.28	112.53	118.09	123.98	130.17	136.67
Humberside	52.47	52.47	54.81	60.30	85.77	95.40	113.04	129.96	135.72	142.47	149.58	156.31
Kent	51.59	48.41	52.48	55.73	60.26	73.64	94.95	105.66	110.88	116.37	122.18	128.25
Lancashire	53.25	53.41	57.69	62.60	67.89	73.86	87.57	100.70	107.72	113.09	125.95	135.96
Leicestershire	52.26	61.21	63.79	67.80	75.52	95.21	104.77	120.11	126.04	132.33	138.96	160.40
Lincolnshire	69.03	78.93	81.99	86.49	90.36	94.86	104.40	112.23	119.43	125.37	131.58	235.35
Norfolk	50.58	53.64	64.35	72.09	83.61	100.35	121.95	138.69	145.53	154.17	164.88	178.56
Northamptonshire	70.56	69.29	76.08	79.65	83.00	105.25	130.09	149.43	154.41	162.11	170.21	178.62
North Yorkshire	49.72	48.46	52.20	57.04	62.59	88.59	156.00	171.50	176.00	180.00	185.40	193.37
Nottinghamshire	49.78	54.32	61.55	65.17	70.17	85.17	109.30	120.12	126.01	132.24	138.78	145.62
Staffordshire	54.74	72.42	78.86	83.43	94.37	100.93	126.50	138.44	145.28	152.53	160.15	166.16
Suffolk	51.39	52.38	56.16	61.11	67.14	82.08	109.35	119.70	125.01	130.86	137.34	149.67
Surrey	44.64	66.06	75.24	79.41	83.08	96.44	135.09	147.06	154.26	163.26	171.27	187.92
Sussex	51.66	50.94	53.19	55.53	59.13	69.84	97.74	105.12	110.25	115.74	122.67	128.70
Thames Valley	52.79	50.76	56.53	60.34	64.49	73.49	106.24	120.51	126.28	132.58	139.19	144.76
Warwickshire	52.24	62.09	71.18	77.57	85.17	101.78	117.30	126.55	132.52	138.95	145.90	164.68
West Mercia	50.87	53.64	59.00	74.06	78.50	104.50	119.80	137.69	143.17	150.24	157.66	165.45
Wiltshire	55.22	62.77	68.98	75.84	83.26	91.54	109.68	120.63	126.63	132.84	139.35	145.34
Total Shires	52.79	56.00	61.24	66.41	71.85	84.78	108.71	121.12	126.97	133.31	140.94	152.03
Greater Manchester	54.10	56.28	60.22	62.72	64.66	68.86	91.65	98.52	105.41	110.67	116.19	124.90
Merseyside	66.87	71.78	77.44	81.31	85.37	94.76	101.54	110.17	115.68	121.46	127.53	133.91
Northumbria	52.73	47.67	49.82	52.06	55.65	58.15	63.80	66.93	70.03	71.78	74.62	78.27
South Yorkshire	53.29	54.28	56.72	59.26	62.79	74.09	94.30	102.79	107.88	113.27	118.92	124.56
West Midlands	53.20	48.99	51.19	54.77	57.21	61.88	71.16	80.08	83.68	87.55	91.47	94.67
West Yorkshire	53.17	52.41	54.76	58.73	60.82	75.92	88.81	102.06	107.05	112.40	118.02	123.62
Total Mets	55.05	54.52	57.59	60.76	63.50	71.06	84.50	92.98	97.94	102.56	107.48	113.06
Total England (Exc London)	53.34	55.65	60.37	65.09	69.90	81.57	103.07	114.60	120.25	126.20	133.22	143.05
Metropolitan	63.27	76.48	82.51	90.95	118.85	130.59	159.13	184.08	196.28	210.82	223.60	227.02
Total England (Inc London)	55.09	59.32	64.26	69.30	77.80	89.52	112.16	125.91	132.62	139.97	147.90	156.69
Dyfed-Powys	48.42	59.58	72.99	85.41	90.90	98.10	124.11	142.65	143.10	150.21	157.68	165.51
Gwent	49.10	54.36	59.74	74.97	84.03	95.17	119.11	139.13	145.07	152.32	159.94	167.14
North Wales	48.52	58.54	66.33	78.49	82.72	96.53	126.94	151.57	158.94	166.89	178.16	186.18
South Wales	49.22	56.25	65.36	80.42	85.57	89.85	103.51	115.71	120.40	126.42	132.74	139.38
Total Wales	48.89	57.03	65.91	79.84	85.54	93.87	115.60	133.34	138.22	145.07	153.03	160.32
Total England and Wales	54.74	59.19	64.36	69.89	78.24	89.77	112.36	126.33	132.95	140.28	148.21	156.91

Sources:
English Police Authorities – DCLG
Welsh Police Authorities - WAG

Police Associations: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what funding the *(a)* Gay Police Association, *(b)* National Black Police Association and *(c)* Christian Police Association received from her Department in each of the last five years; [198586]

(2) whether *(a)* the Gay Police Association, *(b)* the National Black Police Association and *(c)* the Christian Police Association received funding from her Department in each of the last five years. [199[illegible]7]

Mr. McNulty: The following table sets out the funding paid to the national Gay Police Association (GPA) and National Black Police Association (NBPA) in each of the last five years. The Christian Police Association (CPA) has not requested any funding.

£

	DSSA	
	(a) GPA	*(b) NBPA*
2003-04	57,416.25	74,339.39
2004-05	74,035.00	123,638.00

£

	DSSA	
	(a) GPA	(b) NBPA
2005-06	120,480.00	198,083.50
2006-07	107,000.00	180,000.98
2007-08	100,000.00	89,349.73

Police: Business Interests

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers added information to the Business Interests Register in each year since 2002, broken down by *(a)* police force, *(b)* rank and *(c)* business type. [204473]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 9 May 2008]*: Section 7 of the Police Regulations 2003 requires that police officers give written notice of any business interest to the chief officer or, in the case of chief officers, the police authority. Information on the number of officers who do so, their rank and the type of business is not collected centrally.

Police: Consultants

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to outside consultants for the implementation and management of the activity-based costing scheme for the police in each financial year since 2004-05. [200340]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not pay any outside consultants for the implementation and management of the activity-based costing scheme for the police. Police forces are individually responsible for any costs incurred.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* proportion of ethnic minorities in the population of each police force area, *(b)* proportion of ethnic minority police officers in each police force and *(c)* proportion of ethnic minority police officers of each rank in each police force was on the latest date for which figures are available. [201932]

Jacqui Smith: The information is as follows:

(a) The requested information is not available. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates are used to calculate police officer rates per hundred thousand residents. The data used to calculate these populations by police force area do not contain details of ethnicity. Further information about Home Office use of ONS data can be found on:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/population_stats.html

In 1999, my then predecessor published a 10-year target relating to the achievement of a representative workforce. The targets for the police service were based on Labour Force Survey data from 1996 to 1998 and reflected the number of economically active ethnic minority individuals aged between 18 and 54. These targets are given in Table 17 of the latest annual publication which can be found on:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/race-equality-targets-2006-07

(b), *(c)* The requested information can be found in Table 7 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2007". The bulletin can be found in the House Libraries or on:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1307.pdf

Police: Finance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average police precept on Band D council tax bills was in *(a)* England and *(b)* Cheshire in each of the last 10 years. [204409]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Average police precept band D council tax 1997-98 to 2008-09

	Cheshire	England (including London)
1997-98	51.16	55.09
1998-99	53.86	59.32
1999-2000	56.28	64.26
2000-01	61.06	67.68
2001-02	64.66	77.80
2002-03	73.54	89.52
2003-04	88.10	112.16
2004-05	97.71	125.91
2005-06	102.60	132.62
2006-07	108.49	139.97
2007-08	116.03	147.90
2008-09	135.75	156.69

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of national police recruitment campaigning was in each of the last five years in each police force area, broken down by main budget heading; and what resources were allocated to such campaigning for each year. [176067]

Mr. McNulty: Central media spending for police officers, special constables and the Higher Potential Development Scheme over the past five years is given in the following table.

We do not collect data on media spending by individual forces.

	Spend (£ million)
2006-07	4.11
2005-06	1.65
2004-05	2
2003-04	4.98
2002-03	4.73

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of police officers were not confirmed in their appointment at the end of the two year probationary period in each of the last 10 years. [197296]

Jacqui Smith: This information is a matter for each constabulary.

Police: Crime Detection Rates

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rates were in each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [176116]

Mr. McNulty: The available information relates to police force areas and I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 768-70W.

Ports: Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 29th April 2008, *Official Report*, column 275W, on ports: automatic number plate recognition, whether there are automatic number plate recognition cameras in operation at British ports. [205306]

Mr. Coaker: Automatic number plate recognition has proved to be an effective technology used by the police and other law enforcement agencies in combating serious and organised crime and terrorism. It is utilised at strategic locations nationally, including ports and airports, although for reasons of operational security, it is not possible to identify either the level of coverage or the specific ports at which it is currently deployed.

Proceeds of Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been seized by the UK Financial Intelligence Unit since the Serious Organised Crime Agency assumed responsibility for the unit in April 2006. [205757]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) receives and analyses Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) concerning suspected proceeds of crime and terrorist financing and makes them available to law enforcement for appropriate action.

It is not involved in asset recovery.

Road Traffic Offences

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers *(a)* the police and *(b)* other authorities have to deal with unsolicited car windscreen washers; and if she will make a statement. [206831]

Mr. Coaker: Police and local authorities have available a range of measures to deal with antisocial behaviour, including the nuisance caused by unsolicited car windscreen washers. The measures are usually employed incrementally and it is important that they should be proportionate to the behaviour concerned. Among the available measures normally used for low-level antisocial behaviour are warnings, acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs), and injunctions. For more serious cases, antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) may be used. In addition, the police have powers to disperse groups of two or more where their presence or behaviour has resulted, or is likely to result, in a member of the public being harassed, intimidated, alarmed or distressed. These could be used where more than one person is engaged in unsolicited windscreen washing in a particular location.

Stop and Search

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were recorded as being searched under the powers of stop and search in each of the last five years; and of those, how many were subsequently arrested for carrying *(a)* knives and *(b)* firearms in (i) England, (ii) London, (iii) the North East, (iv) Tees Valley district and (v) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [205760]

Mr. Coaker: The available information held by the Ministry of Justice is given in the following table. Data collected centrally are available at police force level only.

Total searches of persons under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and other legislation[1], section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and sections 44(1) & 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000, and resultant arrests, by area, from 2001-02 to 2005-06

	England			London[2]			North East Region[3]		
	Total searches of persons	Arrests for offensive weapons	Arrests for firearms	Total searches of persons	Arrests for offensive weapons	Arrests for firearms	Total searches of persons	Arrests for offensive weapons	Arrests for firearms
2001-02	694,947	7,956	869	213,534	3,539	374	75,365	403	24
2002-03	886,510	9,207	996	293,904	3,621	394	74,958	431	43
2003-04	765,183	8,019	876	259,739	2,721	270	38,029	471	31
2004-05	881,057	9,344	1,382	274,883	2,679	348	48,980	875	43
2005-06	915,584	9,515	1,336	323,444	3,487	462	51,224	655	43

[1] Total searches includes searches under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Firearms Act 1968; also included are: other legislation which relates to searches under other powers, such as under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 s15 (which since 19 February 2001 has been replaced by section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000); various poaching and wildlife conservation legislation; the Aviation Security Act 1982, s27(1); the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, s163 and 164; and the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol, etc) Act 1985.

[2] Includes City of London and Metropolitan police.

[3] Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Taxis

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on taxis by her Department in each year since 1997. [200278]

Mr. Byrne: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management and Ministerial Codes.

The Home Office spend on taxis for financial years 1997-98 to 2007-08 is set out in the following table.

	£ million
1997-98	0.03
1998-99	0.04
1999-2000	0.05
2000-01	0.09
2001-02	0.24
2002-03	0.36
2003-04	0.43
2004-05	0.65
2005-06	0.81
2006-07	0.96
2007-08	0.90

The aforementioned figures include expenditure by the core Home Office, the UK Border Agency, the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (the latter two transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 2007).

Terrorism

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the conclusions of the Carlile Review of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy will be published. [205418]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* We received Lord Carlile's report on the operation in 2007 of the Terrorism Act 2000 on 12 May. We will arrange for its publication as soon as practicable.

Terrorism: Detainees

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons arrested on suspicion of terrorist offences since 1 August 2007 have been detained for 14 days or longer before being charged or released. [204412]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* Since 1 August 2007 no individuals have been detained for 14 days or longer.

However, from 20 January 2004 to date, 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days pre-charge detention, six individuals were held for the maximum 27-28 days, of which three individuals were charged, and three individuals were released without charge.

Nine out of the 11 individuals were arrested in August 2006 following Operation Overt, the disruption of an alleged plot to target aircraft. This led to six individuals being charged, and three were released. One individual was charged on the 27-28 day of detention following his arrest in a counterterrorist operation led by Greater Manchester police in August 2006.

One individual was charged on the 18-19 day of detention following his arrest in relation to the incidents in London and Glasgow in June-July 2007.

The statistics are shown in the following table:

Period of detention	*Number of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released without charge*
14 to 15 days	1	1	—
18 to 19 days	1	1	—
19 to 20 days	3	3	—
27 to 28 days	6	3	3

Terrorism: Internet

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted for terrorism offences specifically involving the internet in the last 10 years. [182217]

Jacqui Smith: Statistics on the number of convictions under terrorism legislation are available on the Home Office website. Figures are compiled from police records and are not broken down in the format requested.

The number of individuals convicted since 1979 under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974 and 1976 is available on the Home Office website in "Statistics on the Operation of the Prevention of Terrorism Legislation, Great Britain" at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbarchive.htm.

This publication details detentions under this Act and outcomes including statistics on individuals found guilty under this and other legislation.

The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001. Statistics from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007 are available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/?view=Standard.

For this period, there were 41 Terrorism Act convictions and 183 convictions under other legislation.

In addition to the above, statistics on the number of convictions in significant terrorist cases are collated for 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 37 individuals were convicted in 15 significant terrorist cases. 21 of those individuals pleaded guilty. So far in 2008, 28 people have been convicted in eight significant terrorist cases. Of these 28, 11 individuals pleaded guilty. Figures are subject to change as cases go through the system.

Unfair Practices: Sales Methods

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on cooperation to tackle boiler room fraud with her counterparts in *(a)* the United States, *(b)* Ireland, *(c)* Hong Kong, *(d)* Singapore, *(e)* Gibraltar, *(f)* Canada, *(g)* Belize, *(h)* Nevis, *(i)* Cyprus, *(j)* Tanzania, *(k)* Lebanon, *(l)* Latvia and *(m)* Spain. [207272]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* I have had no discussions on boiler room fraud with counterparts in these countries; however, I visited the City of London

Police Economic Crime Department in July last year to discuss a number of fraud related issues, including their work on boiler room fraud. I am aware that the force, which has taken a proactive lead in investigating boiler room fraud, enjoys a productive working relationship with law enforcement and other agencies in these countries.

Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of record checks processed by the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since 2002 had comments from chief police officers on otherwise clean reports, broken down by police force area. [205117]

Jacqui Smith: The CRB does not collate data on the number of disclosures which contain comments from chief police officers but which do not contain any data from the Police National Computer (PNC), Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) or Department of Health (DoH).

The CRB does collate the overall number of records checks completed by the police which result in comments from chief police officers being released.

Comments from chief police officers can be revealed on the face of a disclosure as "approved information" or in rare cases sent separately directly to the registered body as "additional information".

The overall number and proportion of records checks conducted by the police forces which resulted in such information being released in each year for which records are available can be found in the following table.

Volume of approved/additional information as percentage of total police checks

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total volume of police checks	2,752,962	3,054,266	3,468,417	4,043,003	4,252,152
Volume of checks where information released	10,423	11,726	18,146	17,673	21,710
Percentage of total	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5

Note:

It should be noted that only the figures for the last two years include additional information. However, the numbers of checks which resulted in additional information being released is very small, making up less than 1 per cent. of the combined approved and additional figure for 2007-08.

The number of records checks completed by the police forces is not the same as the number of disclosures issued because several forces may conduct checks in order to produce one disclosure and more than one force may release approved or additional information.

The following tables show the figures broken down by police force area.

Volume of approved/additional information as percentage of police checks completed by each force

	2003-04			*2004-05*			*2005-06*		
Force	*Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*	*Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*	*Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	119	82,843	0.1	128	82,377	0.2	316	103,919	0.3
Bedfordshire	58	30,846	0.2	155	36,934	0.4	227	43,265	0.5
British Transport Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	51	36,015	0.1	152	51,146	0.3	209	54,387	0.4
Cheshire	180	53,486	0.3	261	56,334	0.5	567	63,772	0.9
City of London	7	94	7.4	9	294	3.1	6	1,464	0.4
Cleveland	179	25 729	0.7	282	28,597	1.0	324	29,457	1.1
Cumbria	518	24,620	2.1	336	25,317	1.3	789	26,332	3.0
Derbyshire	103	45,504	0.2	234	47,709	0.5	300	54,541	0.6
Devon and Cornwall	184	86,648	0.2	312	85,565	0.4	687	106,105	0.6
Dorset	141	38,953	0.4	24	45,010	0.1	45	51,109	0.1
Durham	302	28,740	1.1	355	31,127	1.1	408	36,479	1.1
Dyfed-Powys	14	24,183	0.1	45	28,287	0.2	113	32,620	0.3
Essex	186	79,072	0.2	98	94,704	0.1	211	99,021	0.2
Gloucester	60	29,054	0.2	73	31,436	0.2	141	35,903	0.4
Greater Manchester	977	125,874	0.8	2,077	141,297	1.5	1,840	157,844	1.2
Guernsey	11	637	1.7	11	702	1.6	5	886	0.6
Gwent	116	25,928	0.4	62	27,698	0.2	104	28,445	0.4
Hampshire	132	98,061	0.1	129	105,969	0.1	195	116,322	0.2
Hertfordshire	70	60,518	0.1	83	68,826	0.1	181	69,581	0.3
Humberside	83	41,507	0.2	204	49,413	0.4	259	56,084	0.5
Isle of Man	8	770	1.0	17	1,029	1.7	8	1,368	0.6
Jersey	3	83	3.6	5	799	06	5	1,671	0.3
Kent	480	83,353	0.6	663	83,655	08	835	97,491	0.9

Volume of approvedladditional information as percentage of police checks completed by each force

		2003-04			2004-05			2005-06	
Force	*Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*	*Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*	*Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*
Lancashire	195	79,847	0.2	170	86,188	0.2	313	97,544	0.3
Leicestershire	295	41,197	0.7	36	47,434	0.1	201	58,698	0.3
Lincolnshire	44	38,536	0.1	26	57,113	0.0	20	65,541	0.0
Merseyside	217	72,721	0.3	211	81,113	0.3	185	93,024	0.2
Metropolitan	1,148	427,076	0.3	984	458,094	0.2	2,100	534,128	0.4
MOD and PGA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	306	34,344	0.9	149	40,965	0.4	285	47,001	0.6
North Wales	311	32,665	1.0	343	38,923	0.9	240	46,234	0.5
North Yorkshire	178	39,419	0.5	324	45,232	0.7	735	54,396	1.4
Northamptonshire	312	36,335	0.9	222	38,450	0.6	389	47,472	0.8
Northumbria	311	68,617	0.5	71	71,417	0.1	236	81,652	0.3
Nottinghamshire	305	46,951	0.6	453	50,008	0.9	505	58,340	0.9
PSNI	117	6.077	1.9	275	6,975	3.9	345	8,386	4.1
Royal Military Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SCRO	615	22,312	2.8	789	25,385	3.1	956	28,368	3.4
South Wales	29	49,849	0.1	31	62,005	0.0	48	67,398	0.1
South Yorkshire	70	53,620	0.1	130	60,056	0.2	249	67,739	0.4
Staffordshire	71	50,618	0.1	249	55,983	0.4	632	59,551	1.1
Suffolk	376	32,690	1.2	308	34,813	0.9	247	42,002	0.6
Surrey	115	70,727	0.2	155	76,392	0.2	160	75,400	0.2
Sussex	93	80,161	0.1	98	85,410	0.1	121	93,118	0.1
Thames Valley	363	108,775	0.3	71	121,033	0.1	215	152,135	0.1
UK Central Authority	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	62	24,297	0.3	67	27,083	0.2	94	32,898	0.3
West Mercia	97	66,878	0.1	218	71,554	0.3	479	82,526	0.6
West Midlands	360	122,960	0.3	330	144,239	0.2	809	142,695	0.6
West Yorkshire	380	94,478	0.4	192	113,137	0.2	639	124,110	05
Wiltshire	71	29,294	0.2	109	31,039	0.4	168	39,995	0.4
Grand total	10,423	2,752,962	0.4	11,726	3,054,266	0.4	18,146	3,468,417	0.5

		2006-07			2007-2008	
Force	*Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*	*Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	269	112,091	0.2	291	122,440	0.2
Bedfordshire	245	47,930	0.5	321	49,261	0.7
British Transport Police	21	11,364	0.2	68	27,338	0.2
Cambridgeshire	195	64,443	0.3	300	62,161	0.5
Cheshire	370	71,977	0.5	645	80,312	0.8
City of London	20	2,221	0.9	33	2,946	1.1
Cleveland	426	38,653	1.1	594	39,573	1.5
Cumbria	313	33,144	0.9	249	31,871	0.8
Derbyshire	333	64,764	0.5	406	71,080	0.6
Devon and Cornwall	719	119,876	0.6	840	131,682	0.6
Dorset	39	53,971	0.1	41	57,297	0.1
Durham	241	41,061	0.6	456	43,353	1.1
Dyfed-Powys	98	35,053	0.3	109	40,970	0.3
Essex	203	113,886	0.2	241	122,644	0.2
Gloucester	64	37,410	0.2	68	43,056	0.2
Greater Manchester	925	191,116	0.5	777	186,972	0.4
Guernsey	0	1,426	0.0	1	1,157	0.1
Gwent	141	37,670	0.4	112	38,649	0.3
Hampshire	359	146,869	0.2	472	150,083	0.3
Hertfordshire	249	87,514	0.3	342	87,774	0.4
Humberside	224	58,097	0.4	531	54,687	1.0
Isle of Man	6	1,474	0.4	7	1,689	0.4
Jersey	3	1,932	0.2	2	1,860	0.1
Kent	845	112,074	0.8	766	122,043	0.6
Lancashire	366	106,409	0.3	746	111,853	0.7
Leicestershire	328	66,678	0.5	717	68,324	1.0

Force	*2006-07* *Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*	*2007-2008* *Volume*	*Checks*	*Percentage*
Lincolnshire	82	67,100	0.1	202	64,148	0.3
Merseyside	190	113,587	0.2	187	120,010	0.2
Metropolitan	1,965	589,417	0.3	1,757	611,608	0.3
MOD and PGA	0	0	—	10	127	7.9
Norfolk	274	60,677	0.5	225	62,079	0.4
North Wales	168	51,994	0.3	289	58,260	0.5
North Yorkshire	775	60,493	1.3	868	69.189	1.3
Northamptonshire	316	52,320	0.6	316	51,228	0.6
Northumbria	180	94,731	0.2	460	102,399	0.4
Nottinghamshire	361	67,080	0.5	435	71,886	0.6
PSNI	378	9,442	4.0	127	12,528	1.0
Royal Military Police	0	0	—	28	4,486	0.6
Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency	0	2	0.0	0	27	0.0
SCRO	1,717	31,375	5.5	2,996	38,418	7.8
South Wales	103	82,297	0.1	307	90,308	0.3
South Yorkshire	173	80,522	0.2	212	88,882	0.2
Staffordshire	681	79,628	0.9	386	73,666	0.5
Suffolk	156	43,364	0.4	204	47,179	0.4
Surrey	253	86,174	0.3	395	92,520	0.4
Sussex	173	126,528	0.1	237	124,665	0.2
Thames Valley	174	170,033	0.1	423	181,946	0.2
UK Central Authority	0	2	0.0	0	60	0.0
Warwickshire	119	35,085	0.3	153	39,511	0.4
West Mercia	422	91,828	0.5	393	98,631	0.4
West Midlands	807	203,887	0.4	860	193,107	0.4
West Yorkshire	796	147,310	0.5	747	152,339	0.5
Wiltshire	408	44,724	0.9	358	51,870	0.7
Grand total	17,673	4,043,003	0.4	21,710	4,252,152	0.5

Source:
Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO) and Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI)—figures contain some conviction data also

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of record checks processed by the Criminal Records Bureau were completed within (i) 10, (ii) 14, (iii) 25, (iv) 60 and (v) over 60 days in each year since 2002, broken down by police force area. [205118]

Jacqui Smith: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) operates to a set of public service standards which are to issue 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days.

The targets mentioned above are not CRB targets for completion of a disclosure but part of an internal service level agreement (SLA) in place between the CRB and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). This SLA has been agreed by ACPO on behalf of the 43 local police forces in England and Wales and the time taken by each force to complete their part of the enhanced* disclosure process is measured against these targets. By meeting these targets the police forces directly affect the CRB's ability to meet the public service standard for enhanced disclosures.

The following table illustrates the number of checks completed by each police force in 10 days, 14 days, 25 days, 60 days and over 60 days during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	2006-07					*2007-08*				
Force name	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days[1]*	*Over 60 days*
Avon and Somerset	43,879	93,111	108,469	111,271	0	85,959	107,420	120,003	112,050	0
Bedfordshire	47,440	48,129	48,483	48,547	0	47,490	48,409	48,846	45,003	0
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26,103	27,481	27,747	25,225	0
Cambridgeshire	25,824	32,216	49,424	62,271	0	18,034	32,199	43,180	58,902	0
Cheshire	8,030	11,564	43,819	71,017	0	10,859	16,482	40,738	67,775	769
City of London	1,382	1,723	2,028	2,169	0	2,047	2,134	2,351	2,625	0
Cleveland	15,405	23,703	35,079	37,483	0	14,387	24,944	33,190	36,899	0
Cumbria	6,575	10,040	14,349	24,828	4,053	14,791	23,041	30,447	29,242	0
Derbyshire	18,760	26,516	35,059	54,099	4,146	43,581	53,789	63,989	61,897	0
Devon and Cornwall	45,797	68,380	105,171	117,227	0	113,909	121,696	125,271	119,995	0
Disclosure Scotland	26,815	28,925	30,249	31,511	0	31,037	33,415	34,974	34,310	0

	2006-07					2007-08				
Force name	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*[1]	*Over 60 days*
Dorset	46,930	53,506	54,681	54,946	0	47,649	53,169	56,463	52,599	0
Durham	7,157	12,375	31,851	39,869	0	35,208	36,662	39,574	39,102	0
Dyfed-Powys	33,222	35,083	35,261	35,404	0	39,832	40,549	40,715	37,400	0
Essex	61,369	85,999	102,264	111,256	0	49,830	64,662	84,036	107,281	0
Gloucester	13,597	21,993	31,125	37,304	0	14,720	20,887	29,777	36,795	0
Greater Manchester	68,327	93,987	126,424	184,819	0	45,263	80,962	136,666	145,946	24,662
Gwent	8,824	17,202	24,858	30,437	593	26,235	30,862	34,873	34,912	0
Hampshire	78,786	99,644	120,398	133,172	0	131,098	135,087	142,324	139,304	0
Hertfordshire	33,459	49,524	81,527	84,445	0	76,481	83,461	86,849	80,105	0
Humberside	9,273	24,601	50,376	58,215	0	13,588	23,991	29,055	46,592	6,953
Kent	59,155	94174	111,094	113,222	0	30,706	55,483	99,596	108,555	0
Lancashire	33,841	45,900	87,983	104,249	0	105,668	109,634	111,814	103,871	0
Leicestershire	22,446	32,375	45,558	58,299	1,459	42,165	47,216	53,172	58,054	2,191
Lincolnshire	50,830	56,430	59,698	67,801	0	44,892	51,405	55,102	62,732	0
Merseyside	34,190	68,775	104,184	111,844	0	48,159	62,800	96,784	106,086	0
Metropolitan	286,186	325,447	393,839	540,931	19,344	435,609	504,979	593,919	570,469	0
Norfolk	7,505	12,020	27,460	55,483	0	29,751	35,841	51,891	54,207	0
North Wales	806	2,937	29,325	50,502	0	34,766	42,740	50,801	51,467	0
North Yorkshire	58,458	60,175	60,765	60,897	0	39,593	56,089	68,958	66,953	0
Northamptonshire	47,859	50,245	50,876	51,144	0	28,066	41,371	51,600	48,146	0
Northumbria	31,168	60,539	72,251	84,925	818	54,475	67,766	76,426	84,735	6,220
Nottinghamshire	7,412	14,555	35,382	64,849	0	59,897	68,168	70,312	65,498	0
Police Service Northern Ireland	9,459	9,467	9,469	9,477	0	12,188	12,237	12,370	11,691	0
South Wales	19,522	35,793	54,663	75,119	0	63,949	77,581	80,105	76,668	0
South Yorkshire	6,448	16,914	59,988	79,445	0	32,993	64,689	82,056	81,453	0
Staffordshire	21,235	31,633	38,614	60,007	8,301	26,701	35,020	60,733	68,841	0
Suffolk	31,190	35,802	40,470	42,171	1,169	1,911	9,998	30,110	42,709	0
Surrey	30,111	40,229	64,876	86,852	0	41,302	57,331	79,640	83,233	0
Sussex	9,635	19,905	48,482	109,517	0	97,642	109,699	124,141	116,701	0
Thames Valley	12,388	27,922	103,885	155,692	0	126,558	146,380	168,776	164,802	0
Warwickshire	20,285	27,982	35,431	36,030	0	30,029	34,285	38,144	35,899	0
West Mercia	88,213	89,059	90,072	90,835	0	76,808	85,095	93,350	90,527	0
West Midlands	133,738	155,036	168,954	183,927	0	151,815	158,882	161,488	169,480	0
West Yorkshire	30,124	65,927	115,026	149,488	0	78,169	110,032	135,273	141,926	0
Wiltshire	27,143	32,615	40,921	45,995	0	39,355	41,974	47,827	47,249	0

[1] The 60 day achievement for 2007-08 is an eleven-month calculation (April 2007-February 2008) as the calculation for the March 2008 achievement cannot be made until 60 days have elapsed since month-end.

The following table illustrates the percentage of checks completed by each police force in 10 days, 14 days, 25 days, 60 days and over 60 days during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	2006-07					2007-08				
Force name	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*[1]	*Over 60 days*
Avon and Somerset	41	87	100	100	0	79	98	100	100	0
Bedfordshire	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	100	100	100	0
Cambridgeshire	43	54	83	100	0	30	54	72	100	0
Cheshire	11	17	63	100	0	15	22	55	99	1
City of London	66	82	96	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
Cleveland	49	75	100	100	0	39	68	91	100	0
Cumbria	23	35	50	86	14	47	74	97	100	0
Derbyshire	32	46	60	93	7	66	81	97	100	0
Devon and Cornwall	42	63	97	100	0	99	100	100	100	0
Disclosure Scotland	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
Dorset	88	100	100	100	0	86	96	100	100	0
Durham	19	32	83	100	0	87	90	97	100	0
Dyfed-Powys	99	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
Essex	59	82	98	100	0	44	57	74	100	0

	2006-07					2007-08				
Force name	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*[1]	*Over 60 days*
Gloucester	36	59	83	100	0	40	57	81	100	0
Greater Manchester	40	55	73	100	0	24	44	74	86	14
Gwent	28	55	80	98	2	77	91	100	100	0
Hampshire	61	78	94	100	0	94	97	100	100	0
Hertfordshire	44	65	100	100	0	93	100	100	100	0
Humberside	16	42	87	100	0	23	41	50	87	13
Kent	59	94	100	100	0	27	49	88	100	0
Lancashire	32	44	84	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
Leicestershire	38	54	76	98	2	64	72	81	96	4
Lincolnshire	75	83	88	100	0	67	77	82	100	0
Merseyside	37	74	100	100	0	44	58	89	100	0
Metropolitan	51	58	70	97	3	78	91	100	100	0
Norfolk	15	25	56	100	0	54	64	93	100	0
North Wales	2	6	62	100	0	65	80	95	100	0
North Yorkshire	100	100	100	100	0	64	90	100	100	0
Northamptonshire	100	100	100	100	o	59	87	100	100	0
Northumbria	36	71	84	99	1	55	69	77	93	7
Nottinghamshire	12	23	57	100	0	90	100	100	100	0
Police Service Northern Ireland	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
South Wales	28	51	79	100	0	79	96	100	100	0
South Yorkshire	9	23	83	100	0	42	81	100	100	0
Staffordshire	31	46	57	88	12	36	48	82	100	0
Suffolk	72	83	93	97	3	4	22	67	100	0
Surrey	37	50	80	100	0	49	68	95	100	0
Sussex	10	20	48	100	0	87	97	100	100	0
Thames Valley	8	18	67	100	0	74	85	99	100	0
Warwickshire	60	83	100	100	0	84	96	100	100	0
West Mercia	100	100	100	100	0	83	92	100	100	0
West Midlands	77	89	97	100	0	83	87	89	100	0
West Yorkshire	23	50	87	100	0	54	76	93	100	0
Wiltshire	70	84	100	100	0	85	91	100	100	0

[1] The 60 day achievement for 2007-08 is an eleven-month calculation (April 2007-February 2008) as the calculation for the March 2008 achievement cannot be made until 60 days have elapsed since month-end.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Single Farm Payment

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payments have been made relating to *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many payments of what total value are outstanding for each of those years. [204252]

Jonathan Shaw: For the 2005 single payment scheme (SPS) year, 117,109 customers have been paid £1.53 billion. Payments worth £58,644 are still outstanding for 8 customers.

For the 2006 SPS year, 106,819 customers have been paid £1.514 billion. Payments worth £205,947 are outstanding for 42 customers.

Outstanding 2005 and 2006 payments are complex cases involving legal and probate issues.

As at 6 May 2008 97,809 customers out of the total estimated total claimant population of 106,700 have so far received full SPS payment for the 2007 SPS year. These payments are worth £1.255 billion, compared with the estimated total SPS fund value of £1.45 billion.

RPA is working to finalise remaining payments as soon as possible.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase and improve the provision for modulations under the single farm payment. [206295]

Jonathan Shaw: Currently there are no plans to change the rates of voluntary modulation which apply in England from those that were announced on 29 March 2007.

Changes to all the modulation provisions for the single farm payment are governed by European legislation. We expect modulation to feature as part of the European Commission's forthcoming Health Check of the Common Agricultural Policy, the formal proposals for which are due to be published on 20 May.

Angling: Environment Protection

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on recreational fishing of the introduction of new licences under the draft Marine Bill. [207266]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* Amendments within the draft Marine Bill relating to recreational fishing in freshwater will give the Environment Agency the flexibility to introduce licences which distinguish between different types of waters in order that it might draw a distinction, for instance, between the best salmon rivers and those which are less good. As such a distinction is not necessary at present, the Environment Agency has no intention of using this power immediately, and therefore there will be no effect on anglers in the short to middle term.

With regards to the licensing of sea angling, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Reading, West (Martin Salter) on 18 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 944W.

Angling: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 29th April 2008, *Official Report,* columns 280-1W, on angling: licensing, what the reason for the significant rise in the concessionary duty rates for rod licences is. [204210]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency is under no legal obligation to offer any concessions at all, and has publicly stated that it will use a significant proportion of the monies raised by the higher duty rates to continue to improve access to angling for the disabled and senior anglers.

The Environment Agency carried out its own research into these concessions in relation to those offered by other organisations. The research revealed that the typical concession offered by others is 0 to 10 per cent. and that the revised level of 33 per cent. is still generous in comparison. The concessionary rate will be reviewed again in 2010 along with the other rod and net licence duties.

The Environment Agency faces challenges to implement the EU recovery plan for stocks of European eel in England and Wales, to take forward work on conservation of stocks of Atlantic salmon and sea-trout, and to comply with measures to implement EU rules on the control of fish diseases. Anglers have asked the Environment Agency to increase its focus on enforcing illegal fishing, and the Agency also has a corporate target to increase participation in angling by 2 per cent. a year.

Unless its income is increased to cover inflationary pressures, the Environment Agency would have to cut its services to anglers. For it to maintain its targets the Environment Agency must fully assess all its income sources, and adjust them where necessary to reflect its statutory obligations.

Animal Welfare: Public Bodies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set up a new Animal Health and Welfare Agency to work alongside a National Centre for Animal Viral Disease. [205750]

Jonathan Shaw: Animal Health is the Government's executive agency, which already exists to deliver animal health and welfare policies across Great Britain. The Government have recently consulted on the next steps for responsibility and cost sharing for animal health and welfare, including options for new institutional structures for responsibility sharing. The Government will be announcing their policy in due course. Animal health and welfare policy is a devolved matter and we are reviewing lessons learned from last year's foot and mouth outbreak about how we, together with the devolved Administrations, need to manage cross-border interests. As previously announced, the Government will be responding to Iain Anderson's review later in the year (including his suggestion for a National Centre for Animal Viral Diseases).

Bluetongue Disease

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he estimates Herefordshire will become part of the bluetongue protection zone; and when Herefordshire farmers will receive the bluetongue vaccine. [206317]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with the strategy for rolling out vaccination across England, which has been developed with a core group of industry stakeholders, the protection zone will be expanded at regular intervals over the summer, enabling vaccination to take place on a progressive basis. The strategy, which splits England into priority areas, is designed to be flexible, taking into account the delivery of vaccine, take-up in the existing protection zone, epidemiological information and the location of new disease, when it recurs.

Under the order with Intervet, vaccine will arrive in regular deliveries until the end of August. Intervet is currently ahead of schedule. We cannot specify at this stage when vaccination will be rolled out into Herefordshire. However, we are issuing regular information bulletins to enable the industry to plan as far ahead as is possible.

The strategy, map of priority areas and information bulletins are available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/bluetongue/control/vaccination/vaccination-rolloutplan.htm

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that the bluetongue vaccine is administered in all parts of the country by 15 July 2008. [206047]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The UK was the first EU member state to order vaccine for BTV-8, and received its first batches from Intervet on 30 April, ahead of schedule, for use in the protection zone. We aim to get vaccine to as wide an area as possible, as it becomes available from the manufacturer, in order to help reduce the impact of the disease on industry and to free up movements of livestock. Under the order with Intervet, vaccine is being delivered on a regular basis until the end of August. The strategy for roll-out of vaccination has been developed in partnership with a core group of industry stakeholders.

On 7 May, DEFRA announced, on the understanding that the industry would achieve mass vaccination against bluetongue, that it is tendering for further vaccine supplies for use over the summer.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with international counterparts on securing agreement on a level of current carbon dioxide emissions to be used as a baseline for targets on emission reductions in the future. [207139]

Mr. Woolas: This issue is on the agenda for the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Co-operative Action (AWG LCA) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It will be discussed at a workshop on a 'shared vision, including a long term goal' at the 14th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP14) to be held in Poznan in December of this year.

In addition ministerial colleagues and I have taken part in several other discussions on a long term goal (i.e. a level of current greenhouse gas emissions to be used as a baseline for targets on emission reductions in the future), through international fora and bilateral discussions..

In particular, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has just returned from the G8 Environment Ministers' meeting in Japan, where Ministers underlined the need to reach agreement on a shared vision of a long-term goal at this year's G8 Summit, building on the commitment made last year to seriously consider reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least half by 2050.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204397]

Jonathan Shaw: Ministers in this Department have visited Scotland on four occasions, Wales on three occasions and Northern Ireland on one occasion in the last 12 months.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 6th March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2716W, on departmental ICT, how many of the missing or stolen *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [202437]

Jonathan Shaw: Following the outsourcing of IT services to IBM in October 2004, computers/laptops are no longer classed as departmental assets as they form part of the overall contract for the provision of IT services. All IT equipment therefore belongs to IBM and DEFRA is not charged for replacement equipment. DEFRA does not keep a record of laptops replaced following loss or theft.

DEFRA does not centrally record the individual replacement of lost or stolen mobile telephones or PDAs. Individual business units are required to maintain records of equipment held and run delegated budgets for the purchase of communication equipment. To gather the requested information from individual business units across Defra would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and (b) revoked by Ministers in his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [204768]

Jonathan Shaw: On 28 April, the Department placed in the Libraries of the House copies of a report on: DEFRA's statutory instruments between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2007. The report is the outcome of a review of SIs over that period, and incorporates data on SIs introduced by DEFRA's predecessor (i.e. MAFF). The report shows that the Department implemented 1,036 SIs between 2000 and 2007, and revoked 840 SIs dating back to 2000 and earlier. Comparable data are not available pre-2000.

Departmental Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what projects sponsored by his Department were subject to Gateway reviews in each of the last four years; what status each project was assigned under such reviews; how much his Department spent on Gateway reviews in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [205868]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* DEFRA have had 71 high and medium risk and 18 low risk reviews in the period 1 May 2004 to 1 May 2008. Gateway reports, including the findings and status, are conducted on a confidential basis for senior responsible owners (SROs). We do not, therefore, make this information routinely public.

A key principle of Gateway reviews is that they are cost neutral. However, where there is a shortfall in civil service Gateway reviewers, suitably accredited external resources may be provided by the Office of Government Commerce at a charge. While the Department is unable to identify the individual costs for each review undertaken, as this information is not specifically recorded, DEFRA is currently in credit with OGC for its review days by a factor of £8,600 for the 2007-08 period.

Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made on cost-sharing for bio-security measures; and if he will make a statement. [206293]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 895W.

Dogs

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many successful prosecutions were brought for breeding fighting dogs in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [206083]

Jonathan Shaw: Information from the Ministry of Justice shows that there was one successful prosecution for breeding fighting dogs in England and Wales 2006, information for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The figure provided relates to a person for whom the offence was the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the operation and effectiveness of the legislation on dangerous dogs. [206084]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government conducted a review of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 last year. We consulted police forces in England and Wales and discussed the outcome of this consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). A summary of the responses by police forces is available in the Library of the House.

In the light of the response from the police service, we concluded that the current legislation is sufficiently robust to effectively deal with the problem of dangerous dogs.

We will work closely with the ACPO in helping to implement initiatives to ensure that the law is enforced more effectively.

Farms

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research into the use of commercial farms as a means of promoting well-being of people with disabilities or social needs. [205883]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no plans to commission research into care farming at the current time. My ministerial colleague Lord Rooker visited the care farm Highfields Happy Hens on 22 May.

Farms: Local Authorities

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tenanted or managed farms are owned by each of the local authorities. [207083]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* Local authorities in England have reported that they held 3,138 smallholdings as at 31 March 2007 (the most recent date for which figures are available). The number of smallholdings held by individual authorities is given in the following table. We do not hold information for Wales.

Number of smallholdings by county/unitary authority in England as at 31 March 2007

County/unitary authority	*Total*
Bedfordshire	138
Berkshire West	3
Bournemouth	7
Brighton and Hove	51
Buckinghamshire	66
Cambridgeshire	344
Cheshire	137
City of York	4
Cornwall	112
Cumbria	14
Devon	91
Dorset	66
Durham	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	136
East Sussex	2
Essex	11
Gloucestershire	136
Hampshire	66
Hartlepool	2
Herefordshire	61
Hertfordshire	62
Lancashire	2
Leicestershire	82
Lincolnshire	280
Medway	3
Milton Keynes	12
Norfolk	240
Northamptonshire	15
North Lincolnshire	18
North Somerset	11
Northumberland	7
North Yorkshire	78
Nottinghamshire	19
Oxfordshire	41
Peterborough	28
Shropshire	43
Slough	1
Somerset	89
South Gloucestershire	18
Staffordshire	135
Suffolk	102
Surrey	60
Swindon	19
Thurrock	11
Torbay	2
Warrington	5
Warwickshire	75
West Sussex	21
Wiltshire	71
Worcestershire	126
Total	3,138

Fisheries: Finance

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue likely to be generated each year from fishing licences issued under the draft Marine Bill. [207237]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency's income generated through fishing licences (for salmon, trout, eels and freshwater fish) was £21.7 million in 2007-08; we do not expect this to be significantly affected by amendments made through the draft Marine Bill.

Flood Control: Standards

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood defence structures in England and Wales were in *(a)* very good, *(b)* good, *(c)* fair, *(d)* poor and *(e)* very poor condition under Environment Agency asset condition classifications in each of the last five years. [207911]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides information on all Flood Defence structures connected with Main Rivers and the Sea maintained by the Environment Agency or third parties.

Percentage

	Condition grade				
	Very good	*Good*	*Fair*	*Poor*	*Very poor*
April 2004[1]	8	49	35	6	2
July 2005	62		31	7	
April 2006	61		32	7	
February 2007	63		30	7	
April 2008	66		29	5	

[1] April 2004 figures are for England only.

Flood Control: Urban Areas

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to allocate responsibility for the ownership and long-term maintenance and renewal of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [207603]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA recently consulted on options for the allocation of responsibility for the ownership and long-term maintenance of sustainable drainage systems, as part of the consultation on "Improving Surface Water Drainage". This consultation was launched alongside the Government's Water Strategy, "Future Water" and closed on 30 April 2008. We will publish a summary of the responses in late July, followed by a Government response to the consultation and proposed course of action, later in the year.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the recommendation of the National Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) working group regarding allocation of responsibility was for the ownership and long-term maintenance and renewal of SUDS infrastructure. [207604]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA consulted on options for the allocation of the responsibility for ownership and adoption of sustainable drainage systems as part of the "Improving Surface Water Drainage" consultation. This consultation was launched alongside the Government's Water Strategy, "Future Water" and closed on 30 April 2008. DEFRA received in excess of 100 responses and is in the process of considering and summarising these. The summary will be published at the end of June and copies of individual responses will be made available.

Flood Protection: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on flood protection measures in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* urban areas in each year between 2001 and 2008 (i) in cash terms and (ii) as a percentage of total flood protection expenditure in each of those years. [207364]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency directs flood risk expenditure into areas which are most at risk of flooding, it does not make a distinction between urban and rural when defining flood risk.

Floods: Felixstowe

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make an estimate of the difference between the costs involved in undertaking emergency works on Felixstowe's flood defences as requested by the district council two years ago and the cost of the work now necessary; [207764]

(2) what costs have been incurred for emergency work on Felixstowe flood defences since 1997; [207776]

(3) what the cost of rebuilding Felixstowe's flood defence works would be; [207777]

(4) on what dates the Environment Agency confirmed to Suffolk coastal district council that funds for emergency works on Felixstowe's flood defences would be provided. [207778]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency estimates that £1.5 million has been spent on emergency works on the Felixstowe coastal frontage since 1997. The vast majority of this expenditure has been incurred within the last three years and predominately on the southern Felixstowe frontage.

At today's prices it is estimated that the capital reconstruction of Felixstowe's defences would cost in the order of £17 million. This includes around £10 million for work that is currently underway on Felixstowe's south beach.

The coastal strategy for Felixstowe needed to be in place before any works were undertaken. This was to ensure that the works on the frontage at Felixstowe did not have any subsequent effects on neighbouring coastal processes or strategies.

I can confirm that the Environment Agency wrote to the Director of Finance at Suffolk coastal district council on 3 April 2008. This letter confirmed that emergency funds were approved to the value of £229,000 for works to the Central Felixstowe frontage.

Floods: Research

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of the flood impact study by Cranfield University is; and what proportion of the cost will be met by *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* the Commission for Rural Communities. [204206]

Mr. Woolas: The joint Environment Agency and DEFRA Flood and Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) Science programme commissioned Cranfield, Sheffield and Middlesex universities to carry out a study for "Preliminary Data Collection and Estimating the Cost of Summer Flooding on Farmland and in Urban Areas". The combined cost for this project was £48,500 which included data collection, verification and analysis and professor and research assistant fees. The results will be used to test the accuracy of the Environment Agency's existing tools for estimating the impact of a flood. The Commission for Rural Communities funded a parallel project on rural areas costing £15,000.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Research

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance is given to members of his Department's scientific advisory committees on taking into account all studies and data submitted in support of applications for approval of genetically-modified organisms and pesticides before providing advice to Ministers. [206909]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) provides advice on matters relating to the control of pests in furthering the general purposes of part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) advises Ministers on proposed releases of genetically modified organisms. In common with other committees, both the ACP and ACRE follow the code of practice for scientific advisory committees, recently reviewed and updated in December 2007. This can be viewed on the website of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The code refers to the importance of decisions being based on all the available evidence, and notes that the secretariat should ensure that all relevant scientific information is made available to its committee. All members of the ACP and ACRE have received a copy of the revised code of practice.

Insulation: EC Law

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have had with representatives of the plastic foam insulation industry on the implementation of EC Regulation 2037/2000 in each of the last five years. [207887]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers have not met representatives of the plastic foam insulation industry on the specific question of implementation of EC Regulation 2037/2000 during the last five years. Officials met various industry representatives in January and April 2008 to discuss the recovery of ozone-depleting substances from building foams and will be hosting further meetings in the near future.

Recovery of ozone-depleting substances from foams is an important issue which has recently been identified by consultants hired by the European Commission to help with the ongoing review of EU legislation on ozone-depleting substances. The consultants have reported that, as yet, there has been no concerted effort to recover ozone-depleting substances in building foams either in Europe or elsewhere.

Landfill: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the figures for waste to landfill expressed in kilograms per person are not available for Newcastle upon Tyne; and if he will ask Newcastle city council why such figures are not available. [206689]

Joan Ruddock: All local authorities provide quarterly returns on their municipal waste to WasteDataFlow. The only years for which no figures are available for Newcastle-upon-Tyne are 2000-01 and 2004-05, presumably due to the authority not having completed the DEFRA survey at the time.

Waste authorities with a disposal role must now complete WasteDataFlow returns to provide their data for the landfill allowances trading scheme (LATS). Waste collection authorities submit returns on a voluntary basis. However, the statutory requirement associated with LATS only started from 2005-06. Prior to this, all returns were voluntary.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205142]

Jonathan Shaw: No VIP facilities have been used by DEFRA staff at any airport since May 2006, hence there has been no expenditure.

Poultry: Registration

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of setting up the national poultry register; and how many poultry keepers are registered on it. [206325]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of developing and implementing the Great Britain Poultry Register IT system was £8.4 million.

As of 15 May 2008, the Great Britain Poultry Register holds details of 24,286 premises. A total of 253,717,034 birds have been registered.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of running the national poultry register was in each year since its introduction. [206330]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of running the Great Britain Poultry register for each year was:

			£ million
Description	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
IT Support Costs	0.000	0.356	0.924
Call Centre Costs	1.490	1.609	0.368
Mailing Costs	0.019	0.059	0.060
Total	1.509	2.024	1.352

Rights of Way: Vehicles

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on byways open to all traffic; and what steps his Department plans to take in light of the Court of Appeal judgment in the case of R on the Application of the Warden and Fellows of Winchester College and Humphrey Feeds Ltd *v.* Hampshire county council and the Secretary of State. [206579]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government's policy on byways open to all traffic (BOATs) is set out in a document entitled 'Use of mechanically propelled vehicles on rights of way—the Government's framework for action', which was published in January 2005. In this document we made clear our intention to legislate to curtail claims for vehicular rights of way, where those claims derive from historic use and dedication for use by non-mechanically propelled vehicles. These proposals now form the basis of Part 6 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

The case of 'R on the Application of the Warden and Fellows of Winchester College and Humphrey Feeds Ltd *v.* Hampshire county council and the Secretary of State' was essentially about what is meant by an: "application made in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 14 to Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981", within the meaning of section 67(6) of the 2006 Act and whether such an application, made for a byway open to all traffic, would have engaged the exceptions in section 67(3) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and thereby have preserved public rights of way for mechanically propelled vehicles that were the subject of such an application.

The Court of Appeal ruled that, for the purposes of section 67(6) of the 2006 Act, an application must be accompanied by copies of all the documentary evidence that the applicant wished to adduce or rely upon and a copy of a map drawn to the prescribed scale.

It seems likely that there are many cases pending where, in light of this judgment, the conclusion will be that, even where there was an application for a BOAT made before the relevant date (as set out in section 67(4) of the 2006 Act), the requirements of paragraph 1 of schedule 14 will have not been complied with, within the strict terms emphasised by the judgment, and therefore the public rights of way for mechanically propelled vehicles will have been extinguished.

Version 5 of DEFRA's online guidance on Part 6 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which will be published shortly, will include revised guidance on this aspect of the legislation. We have also issued revised guidance to rights of way inspectors to enable them to deal accordingly with any cases before them.

Sheep: Electronic Tagging

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what derogations the Government have sought from European regulations on the electronic tagging of sheep. [206048]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The EU regulation provides for a derogation from electronic identification in respect of sheep and goats intended for slaughter within 12 months of age. We are currently discussing with industry how this derogation might be applied.

The regulation also provides for a derogation from the need to electronically identify animals in member states where the combined sheep and goat population is less than 600,000 or where the goat population is less than 160,000. We will be applying this derogation to goats as the total UK population is less than the EU threshold.

Supermarkets: Environment Protection

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assess the effects of the activities of supermarkets on the size of the UK's carbon footprint. [207068]

Mr. Woolas: Supermarkets will be subject to the Government's mandatory Carbon Reduction Commitment cap and trade scheme, which will lead to reductions in electricity use and direct energy use CO_2 emissions (as well as requiring large non-energy intensive organisations such as supermarkets to annually report those energy use emissions).

As well as taking action to reduce the direct CO_2 emissions from their own activities (including their storage, display and transport of products), the supermarkets are also to be influential in reducing the embedded emissions associated with the whole supply chain of products consumed in the UK, including their production, manufacture, packaging and disposal.

DEFRA, together with the Carbon Trust, is also sponsoring the BSI to develop a Publicly Available Specification—a method for the assessment of the lifecycle green house gas emissions of goods and services. This involves working with a number of retail outlets. The specification will be published later this year.

Wastes: Hazardous Substances

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was classed as hazardous in each of the last five years; and how much hazardous waste was sent to landfill in each year. [207514]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency advises me that it has published the data requested on its website.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206807]

Mr. Thomas: The use of apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships is managed by each business area. There is no central information available and cost of determining the number of apprenticeships within BERR and its agencies would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Bankruptcy

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individuals have been declared bankrupt in *(a)* East Dunbartonshire constituency and *(b)* in each Government office region in each of the last five years; and what forecast he has made of the number of personal bankruptcies in each of the next five years. [204582]

Mr. McFadden: Personal insolvencies in Scotland are the responsibility of the office of the Accountant in Bankruptcy (AIB).

Statistics for bankruptcies in the Government Office Regions of England, and for Wales, for the most recent three years are provided in the following table.

Numbers of bankruptcies in E and W by GOR. 2005-07

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
East Midlands	3,447	4,594	5,189
Eastern	5,351	7,024	7,147
London	5,334	6,785	6,632
North East	2,156	3,016	3,433
North West	4,664	6,844	7,453
South East	7,350	9,632	9,663
South West	6,357	8,064	7,750
West Midlands	4,156	5,769	5,954
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,268	5,812	5,954
Wales	1,910	2,800	2,968
Total of GORs plus Wales	44,993	60,340	62,143
Published E and W totals	47,291	62,956	64,480

1. Totals for GORs plus Wales are not the same as official published totals for E and W due to missing and/or inaccurate postcode data and the regional figures being based on extracts from the database at a different point in time.
2. There are no official forecasts of personal bankruptcy numbers. The Insolvency Service does use a planning assumption for the number of bankruptcies in England and Wales as a whole, and this number is in the service's corporate plan 2008-11, available at www.insolvencygov.uk.

Borrowing: Interest Rates

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to protect consumers who borrow on terms that assert fixed rates of interest from contractual provisions that enable the interest rates to which they are liable to vary. [207036]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have introduced a number of measures to promote greater transparency in the consumer credit market so that, before they enter into a credit agreement, consumers have the information they need to make an informed choice and are aware of the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Consumer Credit (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2004 specify the information which must be disclosed to borrowers before a regulated consumer credit agreement is made and they specify the manner in which the information must be disclosed. Borrowers should therefore be fully aware of the terms, such as the type of interest rate applicable, before they enter into any agreement.

In addition, the Consumer Credit Directive, which, it seems likely, will be due to be implemented by October 2010, will include a requirement for lenders to provide borrowers with a key standard information sheet before entering into a contract.

Furthermore, the Consumer Credit Act 2006 strengthens consumer rights, by enabling consumers to challenge unfair lending agreements before the courts. Courts are able to consider the entirety of a relationship between debtors and creditors to determine whether any of the circumstances arising from an agreement are unfair to the debtor. The Act also introduces an alternative dispute resolution scheme under which consumers have access to a free and independent means of resolving disputes with their lenders by taking their case to the Financial Ombudsman Service, rather than having to go through the courts.

Further protection is provided through the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, which come into force on 26 May. These introduce a general prohibition on the use of unfair commercial practices that harm consumers' economic interests. Unfair commercial practices will include failure to inform consumers of material information they need to know to make informed purchasing decisions. Any concerns that the practices of traders may infringe this prohibition may be brought to the attention of OFT or Trading Standards.

In addition, the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations enable consumers to challenge any term which has not been individually negotiated in a consumer contract, where that term causes a significant imbalance in the rights and obligations of the parties to the detriment of the consumer. If the court agrees that the term is unfair, it will not be binding on the consumer.

British Telecom: Planning

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of whether BT's plans to build telephone-bearing advertising structures on the roadside are permissible under BT's code powers. [202136]

Malcolm Wicks: No general assessment has been made as there are already procedures in place to handle this issue.

When BT wish to install new telephone kiosks bearing illuminated advertising, they are required on each occasion to apply to the local authority, prior to installation, for an "advertising consent". This is in addition to the General Permitted Development Order which they are required to obtain for the installation of any type of payphone in a public place.

Business: Crime

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what maximum penalties are applicable for *(a)* conspiracy to defraud creditors, *(b)* fraudulent trading, *(c)* preferential treatment of creditors and *(d)* failure to file statutory company accounts and returns within the period set down by law. [206091]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows:

(a) The current maximum penalty for conspiracy to defraud is imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or a fine or both.

(b) The current maximum penalty for fraudulent trading in respect of a company is imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or a fine or both. The current maximum penalty for participating in fraudulent business carried on by a sole trader is imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or a fine or both.

(c) Preferring one creditor to the general body of creditors is not a criminal offence. However, it may give rise to civil remedies that can be taken by a trustee or liquidator against the recipient of the preference, for the benefit of the general body of creditors.

(d) The maximum fine for failing to file accounts and/or annual returns for limited and public limited companies with Companies House within the period set down by law is £5,000 per offence.

The penalties for late delivery of accounts only are:

		£
	Private	*Plc*
3 months or less	100	500
3 months and a day to 6 months	250	1,000
6 months and a day to 12 months	500	2,000
More than 12 months	1,000	5,000

Cartels

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in which markets his Department has identified cartels in the last 11 years. [205205]

Mr. Thomas: Under the Enterprise Act 2002, the responsibility for identifying and investigating cartels falls to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). The following list contains 15 cartel cases where an infringement decision was issued by the OFT against cartels under the Competition Act 1998. It does not include cases where allegations may be in the public domain but remain under investigation, or are subject to legal proceedings. They are:

Supply of local bus services involving bus routes in the Leeds area.

Supply of automatic slack adjusters within the UK.

Supply of Hasbro toys and games in the UK.

Provision of services by cattle auctioneers at livestock marts in Northern Ireland.

Supply of luxury ornamental ware in the UK.

Supply of football club's or national team's replica kits in the UK.

Supply of repair, maintenance and improvement services for flat roofs in the West Midlands.

Supply of desiccant through distributors for use in insulated glass units in the UK.

Supply of installation, repair, maintenance and improvement services for felt and single ply flat roof coverings in the north east of England.

Supply of installation, repair, maintenance and improvement services for mastic asphalt coverings for flat roofs (and other flat surfaces) in Scotland.

Supply of installation, repair, maintenance and improvement services for felt and single ply coverings for flat roofs in western-central Scotland.

Supply of installation, repair and maintenance and improvement services for coverings for flat roofs and vehicular decks in England and/or Scotland.

Supply of stock check pads in the UK.

Supply of aluminium spacer bars in the UK.

Provision of boarding services and comparable day services by certain independent fee paying schools in the UK.

Companies Investigation Branch

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will draw to the attention of his Department's Companies

Investigation Branch the compliance of directors of *(a)* Move (Newcastle-under-Lyme) Limited, *(b)* W. J. Leisure (Newcastle-under-Lyme) Limited, *(c)* Venue Master One Limited (trading as The Albion), *(d)* Pubscene Limited, *(e)* Prohibition PC Limited, *(f)* Move One Limited, *(g)* W. J. Leisure (Hanley) Limited, *(h)* Move (Hanley) Limited, *(i)* M One (Newcastle-under-Lyme) Limited, *(j)* M One (Hanley) Limited and *(k)* Hove One Limited in respect of the law governing the filing of (i) accounts and (ii) other statutory returns within the relevant time limits. [206598]

Mr. McFadden: Yes. I have advised both the Companies Investigation Branch and the Registrar of Companies.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will direct his Department's Companies Investigation Branch to seek reports on directors' conduct from *(a)* liquidators Begbies Traynor of Stoke-on-Trent in respect of the affairs leading to the liquidation of (i) W. J. Leisure (Newcastle under Lyme) Limited, (ii) Venue Master One Limited, (iii) Prohibition PC Limited and (iv) W. J. Leisure (Hanley) Limited and (b) DTE Leonard Curtis of Hollins Mount, Bury in respect of the affairs leading to the liquidation of (A) Move (Newcastle under Lyme) Limited, (B) Move One Limited and (C) Move (Hanley) Limited and from liquidators Moore Stephens of Stoke-on-Trent in respect of the affairs leading to the winding-up and liquidation of Pubscene Limited. [206602]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State has received reports from the liquidators of the various companies mentioned, other than Pubscene Limited which was subject to a winding up order dated 23 September 2003 when the Official Receiver was appointed. The Official Receiver will report to the Secretary of State if he comes to the conclusion that due to their actions further action is warranted against the directors.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask his Department's Companies Investigation Branch to assess whether the law governing preferential treatment of creditors was complied with prior to the liquidation of *(a)* Move (Newcastle-under-Lyme) Limited, *(b)* W. J. Leisure (Newcastle-under-Lyme) limited, *(c)* Venue Master One Limited (trading as The Albion), *(d)* Pubscene Limited, *(e)* Move One Limited, *(f)* Prohibition PC Limited, *(g)* W. J. Leisure (Hanley) Limited and *(h)* Move (Hanley) Limited in respect of amounts due to (i) the owners of freehold property used by the companies, (ii) suppliers of drinks to licensed premises operated by the companies and (iii) banks. [206604]

Mr. McFadden: I have drawn my hon. Friend's concerns about these companies to officials in Companies Investigations Branch (CIB), to whom any further information should be passed.

Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208167]

Mr. Thomas: Users are reminded to turn off their PCs when they leave the office. This advice is contained in the ICT Security Operating instructions which each member of staff is required to read and there is an annual reminder issued to them. For security reasons, any PCs inadvertently left on will go into an 'inactive' mode after a preset time. In addition, in a few month's time, we are planning to introduce a software facility that will automatically shut down any networked PC left on by mistake.

Construction: Standards

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform under what legislation prosecutions can be brought against *(a)* incompetent builders and *(b)* rogue traders; what changes have been made to each since enactment; whether further changes are planned; and if he will make a statement. [207193]

Mr. Thomas: Action can be taken by the Office of Fair Trading and trading standards against traders who mislead consumers, or use aggressive sales practices, under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, or part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002. Changes to legislation since enactment can be found through the UK Statute Law Database at:

www.statutelaw.gov.uk/

Civil action can be taken against builders who have not carried out their contract with due care and skill by the person who has contracted for their services, under the Sale of Goods and Services Act 1982.

The Sale of Goods and Services Act falls within the scope of our current review of the consumer law regime. We are inviting views on the legislation, the way it is enforced and empowerment and redress for consumers. Views have been invited by 31 July 2008, the document is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk./files/file45196.pdf

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints were made to *(a)* each local authority trading standards office and *(b)* his Department about (i) incompetent builders and (ii) rogue traders in each of the last five years. [207195]

Mr. Thomas: BERR do not keep records of complaints made to local authorities or maintain a database of complaints about traders.

Consumer Direct is a Government backed telephone and online advice service managed by the Office of Fair Trading. It provides first stage practical advice on a broad range of consumer issues. It has been fully operational across Great Britain since October 2006.

Over the first three years of operation, Consumer Direct recorded the following number of complaints.

	Total number complaints	*Of which: related to general building work*
2005	399,217	8,878
2006	695,463	15,355
2007	829,275	15,918

Consumer Information: Fees and Charges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consumer protection legislation his Department has introduced to require *(a)* mobile telephone companies, *(b)* mortgage lenders, *(c)* insurance companies and *(d)* utilities companies to notify their customers of forthcoming changes in charging practices. [180381]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of Communications (Ofcom) General Conditions direct the way in which the telecoms industry is regulated. General Condition 10 on transparency and publication of information requires communications providers ensure that clear and up-to-date information on their prices and tariffs (not including bespoke or individual prices and tariffs), and on their standard terms and conditions, are published by sending a copy of such information or any appropriate parts of it to any end-user who may reasonably request such a copy; and by placing a copy of such information on their website.

Ofcom has carried out two recent consultations concerned with consumer protection in the communications sector:

on mobile mis-selling which proposes a new general condition on sales and marketing which among other things would require mobile operators to provide customers with appropriate information about the product/service at the point of sale (http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/mobmisselling/); and

on additional charges which included draft guidance on the fairness of terms covering additional charges, for example non-direct debit charges, charges to terminate a contract early or paying extra to receive a fully itemised bill (http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/addcharges/)

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for the regulation of gas and electricity supply, including the rules governing notification of price increases. It is open to Ofgem to consider whether additional regulatory protection is required. From August 2007, following a two-year review by Ofgem of the standard conditions of supply licences, gas and electricity suppliers are required to provide their customers with notice within 65 working days of a price increase taking effect. Suppliers are required to remind customers of their right to terminate the supply contract within 10 working days if the customer wishes to transfer supplier in light of the price increase.

Mortgage lenders and insurance companies are the responsibility of HM Treasury.

Consumer Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Government intend to take steps to improve levels of protection offered to consumers by legislation. [207099]

Mr. Thomas: The UK already has one of the best consumer law regimes in the world. This has recently been strengthened by the introduction of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, implementing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, so as to provide a comprehensive approach to unfair commercial practices and close off loopholes in previous legislation. The Consumer Credit Act 2006 has brought in tough new protections against rogue lenders and debt collectors. The Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 will require all estate agents in the UK to belong to approved redress schemes dealing with complaints about the buying and selling of residential property, give enforcers greater powers to remove rogue estate agents from the market, and create a new, stronger and more coherent consumer advocacy body.

The Government are also planning to provide more rights for consumers who enter into contracts at home, by extending the right to the seven day cooling off period from unsolicited visits to include solicited visits.

The Government are currently undertaking a review of the consumer law regime that is:

examining the scope for simplification of existing legislation and enhancing flexibility and future-proofing while maintaining necessary protections;

exploring avenues to simplify and rationalise enforcement, allowing greater targeting of action on higher-risk sectors or business; and

investigating the options for improving consumer empowerment and redress.

We have launched a call for evidence, with views invited by 31 July.

Beyond legislation, the funding to the successful scambusting and illegal money lending pilots that target rogue traders has been extended. In addition, the Government have set up the Consumer Direct helpline to provide consumers with practical advice on resolving problems.

Consumers: Protection

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons commencement of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations has been postponed from the planned date of 6 April 2008. [198159]

Mr. Thomas: The last stages of finalising the draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations took longer than expected with the result that businesses would have had little time to prepare had the Regulations been brought into force on 6 April as originally planned. Following a request, I thought it right and consistent with better regulation good practice to delay commencement to 26 May to give business a full 12 weeks to prepare from date the draft Regulations were laid before Parliament.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what changes have been made to the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations since the draft regulations were published for consultation in 2007. [198182]

Mr. Thomas: The most important changes compared with the draft Regulations published for consultation in May 2007 are:

(a) the term "typical consumer" has been replaced by "average consumer" wherever the former appear in the Regulations;

(b) the effect of a commercial practice on an "average consumer" now takes account of such a person having characteristics which include being reasonably well informed, reasonably observant and circumspect as set out in Recital 18 of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD, Directive 2005/29/EC) which the Regulations implement; and

(c) the wording describing the circumstances whether the two variations of the "average consumer" test (the average member of a targeted group and the average vulnerable consumer) apply more closely follows that in the UCPD.

The other main changes to the Regulations are set out in the Government's Response to the May 2007 consultation, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Credit Cards: Fraud

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the use of chip and pin at point of sale terminals. [206459]

Mr. Thomas: The operation of the chip and pin scheme is an industry initiative that is not subject to legislation. However, in its approach to implementing the Payment Services Directive, the Government are considering provisions relating to the authorisation of payment transactions. Such transactions could include chip and pin point of sale transactions.

Debts: Mentally Ill

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Ministerial Group on Over-indebtedness *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake work on people with mental health problems who face financial difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [207356]

Mr. Thomas: The Ministerial Group on Over-indebtedness was pleased to note in its "Tackling Over-indebtedness Annual Report 2007" that:

(i) the Money Advice Liaison Group had agreed its best practice guidelines on debt management in relation to people with mental health problems and

(ii) the Finance and Leasing Association had introduced specific provisions in its Lending Code to ensure customers with long term health difficulties received appropriate assistance.

Since then, the British Bankers' Association have issued their new Banking Code that promises to consider all cases of financial difficulty sympathetically and positively.

The Government expect industry to observe these provisions.

In addition, reforms to the consumer credit licensing regime, introduced by the Consumer Credit Act 2006, have given the Office of Fair Trading stronger powers to investigate and take action against rogue traders who lend irresponsibly.

Furthermore, the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, which come into force on 26 May, provide additional protection for vulnerable consumers. Under these regulations, a commercial practice, such as aggressive or misleading sales techniques, may be found unlawful where it is likely to only adversely affect a clearly identifiable group of vulnerable consumers in a way which a trader can reasonably foresee, by virtue of mental or physical infirmity, age or credulity.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Finance

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the operating budget of the Defence Export Services Organisation was in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [206924]

Mr. Thomas: The net operating costs of the Defence Export Services Organisation in the financial year 2004-05 was £16.922 million. For financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the armed forces on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 196W to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone).

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on departmental advertising, if he will provide the equivalent figures for *(a)* campaign and *(b)* recruitment advertising for the financial year 2006-07. [197446]

Mr. Thomas: In 2006-07 the then DTI spent £581,424 on campaign advertising and £11,457 on recruitment advertising via the Central Office of Information. Detail of other advertising expenditure is not held centrally.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196941]

Mr. Thomas: My Department does not have the information requested available and to produce this information would incur disproportionate costs. However, BERR has adopted a policy to use Fairtrade products within its catering operations and includes a clause within the contract specification with its catering service provider.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205906]

Mr. Thomas: The Department collects data on officials who are either disciplined or dismissed relating to breaches of data protection requirements and also for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data. The Department is unable to provide any data as in doing so we would identify individuals involved. In identifying an individual or individuals the Department would be open to claims of breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each. [203795]

Mr. Thomas: A summary list will be published by way of a written ministerial statement which will provide information of official receptions hosted by Ministers in this Department during the course of the financial year 2007-08. The Department will aim to do this before summer recess this year.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192048]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has spent the following on pot plants in each of the last five years:

	£
2003-04	29,394.17
2004-05	25,640.17
2005-06	22,209.43
2006-07	21,358.50
2007-08	23,021.57

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205830]

Mr. Thomas: We estimate that the production costs of the written consultations carried out by the Department in the last three years were as follows:

	£
2005	67,000
2006	71,000
2007	51,000

Calculating or estimating the cost of consultation roadshows and stakeholder focus groups could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206211]

Mr. Thomas: This information is not held centrally and could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial appointees in possession of a security pass enabling access to his Department's predecessor's main building in the month prior to the prorogation of Parliament for the 2005 general election. [182239]

Mr. Thomas: Special advisers based in the DTI, prior to the 2005 general elections were:

Jim Godfrey (surrendered pass on 19 April, 2005)
Roger Sharpe (surrendered pass on 19 April, 2005)
Liz Kendall (surrendered pass on 7 April, 2005).

On the announcement of the general election in 2005, the above were asked to surrender their passes.

DTI Ministers were not obliged to carry security passes.

Directors: Disqualification

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many adverse reports required under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 have been received by his Department concerning the conduct of directors in each year since 2002. [206710]

Mr. McFadden: The number of adverse reports received since 2002 is:

	Number
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	3,539
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	3,394
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	3,860
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	3,721
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	4,107
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	3,991
1 April 2008 to 16 May 2009	606

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many disqualification orders have been made against directors under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 for a period of *(a)* two years and *(b)* more than two years in each year since 2002. [206711]

Mr. McFadden: Prior to 1 April 2006 statistics are not available which break down disqualification orders by period.

From 1 April the figures are listed in the following table:

	Two years	*Above two years*
1 April to 31 March 2007	13	233
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	12	236
1 April 2008 to 19 May 2008	0	20

The total number of disqualification orders from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2006 is as follows:

	Number
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	319
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	213
1 April 2004 to 31 march 2005	290
1 April 2005 to 31 march 2006	267

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199192]

Mr. Thomas: BERR does keep records of the number of paper letters and e-mails it sends. The Department can therefore determine over a given period what proportion is white mail and what proportion is e-mail.

BERR does have a mechanism in place to identify which publications are distributed electronically via the departmental website. For the period 1 November 2007 to 30 April 2008, there were 667,165 page views of the folder which holds the downloadable documents.

BERR uses MS Outlook for e-mail messaging and has an electronic document and records management (EDRM) system called MATRIX.

Energy: Low Incomes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what methods he plans to use to apportion the £150 million increased expenditure on social assistance agreed with energy suppliers to address fuel poverty amongst customers of the six major suppliers. [204853]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* Energy suppliers offer a range of initiatives to help the vulnerable including social tariffs, rebates and trust funds. Following the three year voluntary agreement signed with each individual energy supplier, Ofgem is leading a process to set the parameters for what can be included by suppliers as part of this spend on their social programmes. Ofgem is planning to consult on this issue shortly.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of mark-to-market value on the price of energy. [207889]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are aware of a wide range of academic and industry studies which look at energy prices and meet regularly with experts to discuss prices and other market issues. However the Department has not specifically evaluated or commissioned research solely on the impact of mark-to-market value on the price of energy.

Estate Agents

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when he plans to implement the requirement that estate agents join an Office of Fair Trading approved complaints scheme under the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007; [200263]

(2) how many representations he has received *(a)* for and *(b)* against retaining the statutory estate agent contractual terms (i) ready willing and able and (ii) sole selling rights. [200264]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State can only make an order requiring estate agents to belong to an approved redress scheme once the Office of Fair Trading has approved at least one scheme open to all estate agents. Subject to the OFT approving a scheme, I expect to commence an order requiring redress scheme membership on 1 October 2008.

The Estate Agents (Provision of Information) Regulations 1991 include statutory definitions for specified contract terms that deal with who can sell a property and in what circumstances commission is payable to an estate agent. The recent estate agents consultation sought views on alternative versions of the statutory definitions. The bulk of the respondents to the consultation restricted their comments to amending the statutory definitions, but two of them expressed views against retaining the terms 'sole selling rights' and 'ready, willing and able purchaser'. One respondent called for 'sole selling rights' to be removed, whereas the other called for both terms to be prohibited. We are currently reviewing the responses.

Financial Reporting Council: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what financial contribution his Department makes to the operations of the Financial Reporting Council. [208074]

Mr. Thomas: For the 2008-09 financial year, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform expects to contribute £3.467 million to the core operating costs of the Financial Reporting Council. With regard to future funding of the Financial Reporting Council by the Department, I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement of 6 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 66WS.

Foreign Workers: Poland

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the evidential basis was for the information he gave in his interview on the BBC on Sunday 6th April 2008 on the proportion of Polish migrant workers who have now returned to Poland. [207020]

Mr. Hutton: A paper by the Bank of England published in January 2007 "The Impact of the Recent Migration from Eastern Europe on the UK Economy" indicated that sources suggested that a

> "significant proportion—perhaps as many as a half—have returned to their country of origin."

Earlier this year the Centre for International Relations, a Warsaw based think tank, also suggested that half of the estimated 1 million UK based Poles are expected to return home.

Imports: Cotton

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to prevent imports of *(a)* cotton and *(b)* clothing which have been produced by child labour in Uzbekistan. [203810]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* The UK remains concerned, about allegations of the use of child labour in the cotton sector in Uzbekistan. The UK has raised its concerns through the EU and has discussed the issue with the Uzbek Government. The EU welcomed Uzbekistan's signing of the International Labour Organisation Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour earlier this year and has urged Uzbekistan to implement effectively its international obligations in this regard.

The UK Government continue to call on businesses to look at their supply chains and take appropriate action if they find evidence that goods has been produced using child labour.

There is no legal requirement for goods to bear marks indicating its origin. As such, it would be difficult for the Government to establish a blanket ban on imports of Uzbek cotton and clothing. Similarly, products manufactured using Uzbek cotton in a third country would legitimately bear the country of manufacture as the country of origin.

Imports: Seals

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the introduction of an EU-wide ban on the importation of seal products. [198669]

Mr. Thomas: I, together with my hon. Friend the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and the noble Lord Rooker, Minister for Sustainable Food and Fanning and Animal Health at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), jointly wrote on 13 March 2008 to Commissioner Dimas, DG Environment at the European Commission as well as to all EU member state Trade and Agricultural Ministers reiterating the UK's request for an EU-wide ban on the importation of sealskin products.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to appoint a new member to the Dust Reference Panel. [207403]

Malcolm Wicks: The Coordinating Group of claimants' solicitors nominated a candidate which the Department accepted. The Department currently awaits the candidate's acceptance of the terms and conditions of the post before confirming the appointment.

Ipsos MORI

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 18W, on departmental official hospitality, what the cost of each stakeholder survey provided to his Department by Ipsos MORI in 2007-08 was. [208114]

Mr. Thomas: Four of five surveys have so far been completed with costs (excluding VAT) as shown in the following table. The fifth, of Fair Markets stakeholders, to be conducted later in the year, is currently being scoped. Its anticipated cost is £39,000 ex VAT.

	Cost (£)
Business Relations Stakeholders	25,680
Enterprise Stakeholders	21,500
Captains of Industry Reputation	20,250
BERR Key Corporate Stakeholders	19,600

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many low carbon buildings programme grants he estimates will be made between March 2008 and the end of 2008-09. [202959]

Malcolm Wicks: At present, there are on average 200 householder grants offered per month under the low carbon buildings programme phase 1. On this assumption, we will allocate a further 2,400 grants up to the end of March 2009. Our projections of future uptake estimate around £27 million of low carbon buildings programme phase 2 grants allocated between March 2008 and March 2009. However, it is difficult to predict future take up with certainty given the many factors involved.

We continue to work towards increasing grant uptake through promoting the programme and increasing awareness of LCBP and the technologies it supports.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in respect of which types of public buildings applications for grants under the low carbon buildings programme have been made. [202960]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been applications for grants under the low carbon buildings programme involving public buildings in following categories:

Low carbon buildings programme phase 1

Community buildings/ day centres
Emergency services
Further education—universities, colleges and academies
Hospitals
Libraries/museums/galleries
Offices
Primary health care buildings
Primary schools
Prisons
Religious buildings
Residential/housing developments
Secondary schools

Social clubs
Sports centres/leisure centres
Theatres/cinemas/music halls and auditoria
Warehouses and storage
Workshops/maintenance depots
Other

Low carbon buildings programme phase 2

Local groups with constitutions
Local authorities
School
University
Housing association/trust
Others (ALMO's—arms length management organisations)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of funding from the Low Carbon Buildings Programme has been spent on *(a)* public buildings, *(b)* charity-owned buildings and *(c)* private homes since the programme was launched. [202964]

Malcolm Wicks: The proportion of funding from the Low Carbon Buildings Programme which has been spent on public buildings, charity owned buildings and private homes is as follows:

LCBP phase 1

	Number of grants paid	*Value of grants (£)*	*Percentage of LCBP phase 1*
Private homes	4,427	6,963,828	89
Charity buildings	11	113,939.84	1
Public buildings	40	522,908.35	7

LCBP phase 2

	Number of grants paid	*Value of grants (£)*	*Percentage of LCBP phase 2*
Private homes	0	0	0
Charity buildings	28	284,529	12
Public buildings	130	2,071,643	88

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of available grant funding under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme has been spent on solar photovoltaic power generation and wind turbines. [202974]

Malcolm Wicks: From a total budget of £86 million available under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme we have spent £10,149,701 to date of which £6,225,108.98 has been spent on solar photovoltaic power generation and £1,326,393.91 on wind turbines.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many private householders applied for grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in each year since 2006. [202995]

Malcolm Wicks: The total number of householders who have applied for grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to date is 8,954. The breakdown by year is shown as follows:

	Number of householder applications received
2006	5,129
2007	2,916
2008	909
Total	8,954

Although demand to the programme has fallen, the changes made at the re-launch in May 2007 have helped ensure that we are seeing a better quality of application to the programme that is more likely to complete.

We recently announced that the household stream has been extended to June 2010 for new applications or as long as funds are available. We believe this extension combined with changes to planning requirements will provide an excellent opportunity to encourage uptake in the grants going forward.

Further details are available at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects all funds available from the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to be taken up; and what he anticipates will be the likely replacement of the programme once all funds available from it have been taken up. [203104]

Malcolm Wicks: We have currently committed £30 million to 6,300 projects under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. Going forward it is difficult to predict with certainty exactly when all funds will be taken up. We are continuing to promote the programme working closely with the programme managers and other stakeholders to increase take up.

We recently announced that the household stream of the programme has been extended to June 2010 for new applications or as long as funds are available, whichever is sooner. We believe the extension gives business longer term certainty and is an excellent opportunity to encourage uptake in microgeneration technologies along with changes in planning requirements, which came into effect on 6 April.

Ministerial Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the holding Answer given to Question 193546, tabled on 7 March 2008, on ministerial correspondence, when he will provide a substantive reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 29 January. [197741]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: I apologise to my hon. Friend for the delay in responding, this was due to an administrative error. A response was sent to him on 31 March 2008.

Mobile Phones

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with each of the five largest mobile operators on mobile termination rates in the last six months. [205818]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* My colleagues and I meet regularly with representatives of the five largest mobile operators. The companies raise a range of current issues with us, including mobile termination rates. Ofcom's proposals for mobile termination rates following its consultation last year are currently subject to appeal in front of the Competition Appeal Tribunal. In view of that situation, we are not actively discussing the issue with any of the companies at this time.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from the five largest mobile operators on the introduction of two-hour number porting since January 2007. [205819]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* All the mobile phone network operators meet with my officials on a regular basis to discuss all types of mobile phone-related issues. I am aware that some operators are not comfortable with the arrangements concerning mobile number portability, but these matters are commercially sensitive and we are not able to comment on company specific policy. We understand that these matters are the subject of continuing discussions between Ofcom and the operators.

Money Lenders

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will put in place mechanisms to protect people with mental health problems from the activities of doorstep lenders and private finance companies. [205267]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have no plans to introduce specific protections in this area. However, recent reforms have strengthened protections for vulnerable consumers.

From April 2008, reforms to the consumer credit licensing regime introduced by the Consumer Credit Act 2007 have given the OFT stronger powers to investigate and take action against rogue traders who lend irresponsibly. OFT will take a risk-based approach to enforcement, focusing its activities on those sectors where the risk of consumer detriment is highest. It has indicated that the home credit sector will be among those most carefully monitored. OFT will bring forward guidance this year for lenders about activities which may constitute irresponsible lending.

Furthermore, the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, which come into force on 26 May, provide additional protection for vulnerable consumers. Under these regulations, a commercial practice, such as aggressive or misleading sales techniques, may be found unlawful where it is likely to adversely affect only a clearly identifiable group of vulnerable consumers in a way which a trader can reasonably foresee, by virtue of mental or physical infirmity, age or credulity.

The consumer credit directive, which will be transposed into UK law by 2010, will provide further consumer protections through the introduction of a general right of withdrawal from credit agreements within scope, giving consumers a 14 day cooling-off period after signing their agreement. The Government will also bring forward regulations extending cancellation rights to contracts for goods and services purchased on the doorstep following a solicited visit by a trader. Consultation on draft regulations closed last month.

The Government would expect all lenders to observe the Money Advice Liaison Group's best practice guidelines on debt management in relation to people with mental health problems.

Natural Gas: Prices

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information he holds on the average cost of gas to *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial consumers in other EU member states for the purposes of benchmarking. [206040]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR calculates and publishes UK price information on a time series basis. These data are then presented alongside data for EU and other G7 economies.

Domestic retail prices for gas for countries in the EU are published quarterly in section 5 of 'Quarterly Energy Prices', the latest edition of which was published in March 2008 and is available online at

http://www/berr.gov.uk/files/file45393.pdf.

Table 5.10.2 on page 70 shows average gas prices, including taxes, for the EU25 member states.

Table 5.8.2 on page 67 shows average gas prices, including taxes, for non-domestic consumers. The Department does not hold any data on gas prices to commercial consumers.

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what costs have been recovered by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) for work carried out on prospective reactor designs as part of the general design assessment (GDA) programme from *(a)* Westinghouse, *(b)* GE Hitachi, *(c)* EDF/Areva and *(d)* Atomic Energy Canada; and what estimate he has made of further costs to be recovered by the NII under the GDA programme. [206561]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table sets out the amounts that have been recovered by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) from the companies mentioned above, and amounts that are due to the NII for work carried out to date on the Generic Design Assessment process.

GDA cost recovery 2007-08

£

Requesting party	*Paid*	*Due*	*Total*
Westinghouse	374,743	178,900	553,644
GE Hitachi	297,462	197,133	494,595
EDF/ Areva	370,422	258,648	629,070
AECL	372,160	216,090	588,250
Total	1,414,788	850,770	2,265,558

The NII have estimated that the costs they will recover for the rest of the Generic Design Assessment process will be in the region of £13 million per design, although this estimate will be dependent on a number of factors, including the level of advancement of the companies' submissions and the costs of using technical support organisations.

Nuclear Power Stations: Costs

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1464W, on nuclear power, if he will disaggregate the 10 per cent. discount rate into its component parts in accordance with Green Book methodology. [207667]

Malcolm Wicks: The 10 per cent. discount rate used to appraise nuclear power against other generation options is based on an assessment of the cost of capital faced by private sector electricity generators. It is used to produce estimates of generation costs for fossil fuel and low carbon generation options so that their costs can be compared against each other. The Treasury Green Book discount rate is then used to discount the cost differences between options over time in order to estimate the cost or benefit to the economy of one generation option over another.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1464W, on nuclear power, what the titles are of the studies on which the choice of a 10 per cent. discount rate was based. [207668]

Malcolm Wicks: A summary of the analysis of the costs of different electricity generation options is contained at annex B of the 2006 Energy Review. This is available at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file32014.pdf

It provides a list of the studies which were used to compile the financial model used to make the cost estimates, including those which used a 10 per cent. discount rate. Most notable is the International Energy Agency (2005 Update) Projected Costs of Generating Electricity.

Overseas Companies

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice his Department issues to UK businesses operating overseas on the reinvestment of profits in local communities. [206935]

Mr. Thomas: BERR encourages business to build Corporate Responsibility into its operations. The joint BERR/FCO organisation UK Trade and Investment, which helps UK based companies succeed in international markets, has a package of training to raise awareness and encourage staff to make UK businesses aware of the need to take account of their economic, social and environmental impacts when trading internationally.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice his Department issues to UK businesses operating overseas on in-country environmental and planning guidelines. [206936]

Mr. Thomas: BERR encourages business to build corporate responsibility into its operations and to take account of local guidelines. The joint BERR/FCO organisation, UK Trade and Investment, helps UK based companies succeed in international markets and has a global network of staff in some 100 countries who can advise UK business on environmental and planning guidelines relevant to their business in overseas markets.

Overseas Investment: Brazil

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of annual investment in Brazil by UK companies. [206971]

Mr. Thomas: According to the latest figures published by the Office for National Statistics in February 2008, the net flow of the UK's foreign direct investment into Brazil in 2006 amounted to £356 million.

Further information can be found in Business Monitor MA4, Foreign Direct Investment 2006.

Overseas Trade: Seychelles

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the United Kingdom and the Seychelles; how much his Department and its predecessor spent on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Seychelles in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [205073]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has no current or future plans to increase trade between the UK and Seychelles. There has been no spending on promotion of trade between UK and Seychelles in the last five years.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department work on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Seychelles, broken down by grade; and what the equivalent numbers were for the Department of Trade and Industry in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* each year between 1998 and 2005. [205074]

Mr. Thomas: No officials in BERR or its predecessor Department are, or have been, specifically engaged in promoting trade between the United Kingdom and Seychelles for at least 10 years. No records are available for 1983 and 1987.

Post Office: Reorganisation

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the Post Office's London Area Network Change Programme. [206375]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. Friend has received various correspondence from MPs and members of the public concerning POL's Network Change Programme, including on the London Area Plan. These have been in the form of parliamentary questions, Members' cases and petitions.

Post Offices

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will make it his policy to compensate the Post Office network in full for the services of general economic interest provided by it; and if he will make a statement; [206748]

(2) what estimate he has made of the level of services of general economic interest provided by the Post Office network; and if he will make a statement; [206749]

(3) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his European counterparts on the level of services of general economic interest provided by the Post Office network. [206750]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 21 May 2008]:* On 17 May 2007 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry announced an investment of £1.7 billion to sustain a national Post Office network. This package recognises the important social and economic role played by post offices in the communities they serve and reflects the breadth of Government interests in the network.

Accordingly, on 8 November 2007, I entrusted Post Office Limited with the provision of certain specific services of general economic interest under the terms of a letter to its managing director, Alan Cook. The specific services are set out in the annex to that letter. I have today arranged for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House. Compensation for the provision of these services up to March 2011 is included within the £1.7 billion investment announced on 17 May 2007.

The European Commission provided the approval necessary for the funding on 29 November 2007, following the submission of a formal notification on 28 June 2007, and certain consequent clarificatory discussions between officials of BERR and the Commission.

Post Offices: Closures

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects of post office branch closures on local businesses. [206950]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* In developing its proposals for post office closures under the network change programme, Post Office Ltd is required to consider, among a range of factors, the impact on local economies. It is not possible to say what effect the closure of individual post offices may have on local businesses until the implementation of Post Office Ltd's relevant network change area plan is completed.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies were for each year since 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189687]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

Cost of Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform press office

	£000
2003-04	n/a
2004-05	1,074
2005-06	1,106
2006-07	967

The DTI was reorganised in July 2007. Figures for BERR 2007-08 will not be available until after the accounts are audited.

Figures are not available for the DTI prior to 2004-05 as that year saw the introduction of a new accounting system and the accounts for previous years were not transferred.

Cost of UK Trade and Industry press office

	£000
2003-04	n/a
2004-05	153
2005-06	143
2006-07	136

UKTI was formed in October 2003. They do not hold financial information for predecessor organisations.

Financial information for UKTI's press office is provided from April 2004. There is no singularly identifiable cost centre for the press office prior to this date as costs were shared across various teams in the marketing department.

Total pay costs represent the costs of staff in post—comprising salary, overtime, NI and superannuation.

Cost of BERR NDPB press offices

£000

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
ACAS[1]	50.9	52.5	54.1	55.8	57.5	59.3	61.2	63.1	65	67.1
Atomic Energy Authority[2]	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Civil Nuclear Police Authority[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	103	123
Coal Authority[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Competition Commission	68.6	28.3	25.7	45.2	48.8	47.6	58.9	138.5	162.8	137.4
Competition Service[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Energy Watch[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	180	198	204	208	151	148
Hearing Aid Council[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
National Consumer Council	77.5	52.5	82.9	96.4	98.3	76.2	84.3	88.5	90.9	94.1
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority[8]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PostWatch[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	550	519	488	265	365	386
SITPRO Ltd.[10]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] ACAS do not hold the broken down figures from 1996-97 to 2005-06 but has estimated these costs.
[2] The UK Atomic Energy Authority does not employ dedicated press officers. Five members of staff in the UKAEA have media relations as part, but not all, of their duties. The UKAEA have estimated the staff costs and overheads per annum based on a FTE equivalent of two full time employees, based an estimate of the proportion of UKAEA communications team members' time available to cover press officer functions.
[3] The Civil Nuclear Constabulary was set up as a separate entity in 2005.
[4] The Coal Authority does not have a press office.
[5] The Competition Service does not have a press office.
[6] Energy Watch, were set up in 2001. Their costs refer only to staff salaries.
[7] The Hearing Aid Council does not have a press office.
[8] The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority does not have a press office. Three Communications Managers are employed to undertake a variety of activities of which handling media inquiries is one element. A Head of Communications and Communications Director may also handle media inquiries.
[9] PostWatch was set up in 2001.
[10] SITPRO Ltd. does not have a dedicated press office.

Figures for 2007-08 have not been included as this information has not yet been audited.

The following table details the cost of maintaining a press office function in each RDA. The press offices sit within a larger general marketing function, therefore the relevant costs of maintaining the press office function (staff salaries plus on costs) are shown. However, it is not possible to draw a direct correlation between the cost of the press office and the number of FTE staff because in many cases RDA staff fulfil other responsibilities in addition to press office duties.

Figures for 2007-08 have not been included as this information has not yet been audited.

Cost of RDA press offices

£000

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
AWM[1]	—	22,000	25,483	86,635	112,776	139,601	154,886	158,293
EEDA[2]	4,637	25,468	16,576	25,047	29,710	46,562	92,985	97,643
EMDA[3]	—	—	—	45,000	48,295	55,803	55,811	52,462
LDA[4]	—	—	—	118,817	137,580	213,188	287,882	207,863
NWDA[5]	—	37,195	87,370	107,558	128,473	186,063	171,444	194,795
ONE[6]	106,305	111,900	117,790	135,103	175,242	92,478	153,208	195,380
SEEDA[7]	—	13,827	43,203	57,396	198,557	149,572	191,185	154,046
SWRDA[8]	—	—	93,159	110,662	156,970	170,797	205,537	283,839
YF[9]	—	—	51,525	53,692	71,902	88,547	100,907	110,088

[1] AWM press office costs for 1999-2000 (ie staff salary and on-costs) are archived and are available only at disproportionate cost.
[2] In 1999-2000 the EEDA press office function was only carried out for the fourth quarter of the financial year. In 2001-02 the press office function was carried out by one FTE member of staff, but was vacant during quarter two of the financial year, reflected by lower costs for that year.
[3] EMDA press office costs for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are archived and are available only at disproportionate cost. Recent changes in the EMDA payroll system mean that it is not possible to calculate on costs such as national insurance and pension contributions for historic salary records, therefore the figures provided relate to pure salary costs only.
[4] LDA press office costs for 2000-01 and 2001-02 (ie staff salary and on-costs) are archived and are available only at disproportionate cost
[5] NWDA press office costs for 1999-2000 (ie staff salary and on-costs) are archived and are available only at disproportionate cost. In 2000-01 the press office function was not carried out for the entire final year, reflected by reduced costs for that year.
[6] At ONE North East, the press office also carries out public relations functions on behalf of the agency, which accounts for the higher than average, costs in the first four years listed.
[7] SEEDA press office costs for 1999-2000 (ie staff salary and on-costs) are archived and are available only at disproportionate cost.
[8] SWRDA press office costs for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 (ie staff salary and on-costs) are archived and are available only at disproportionate cost.
[9] YF press office costs for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 (ie staff salary and on-costs) are archived and are available only at disproportionate cost.

Public Houses

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress his Department has made in implementing those recommendations made by the Trade and Industry Committee on Public House Ownership in 2004 that were accepted by the Government; if he will introduce proposals for legislation to implement those recommendations in full; and if he will make a statement. [206880]

Mr. Thomas: There was just one recommendation made to Government in the House of Commons Trade and Industry Committee's report on pub companies published on 8 December 2004.

My predecessor wrote to the Chairman of the Committee in February 2005. The Government agreed that a voluntary code could go some way to resolving concerns of tenants about their contractual relationships with pub companies. However, the Government saw difficulties with imposing a statutory code of practice upon the industry which would prescribe the terms and conditions for what are commercial arrangements.

Any competition concerns that arise in relation to the behaviour of the pub companies would be a matter for the competition authorities.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward legislative proposals to regulate public house leasing to require public house owners to *(a)* inform their tenants how their rents are calculated, *(b)* prevent tenants being financially disadvantaged by the creation of a tie, *(c)* cease the practice of upward-only rent review and *(d)* remove the tie on assessment with prizes machines; and if he will make a statement. [206881]

Mr. Thomas: The arrangements under which the rent may be varied during the course of a business tenancy are a matter of agreement between the pub landlord and the lessor during negotiations and will be set out in the lease document. The lessor can only vary the rent in accordance with these agreed arrangements. Leases generally make provision for dispute resolution, which pub landlords can use to challenge the lessor's proposals if they consider them too high.

On the question of upward only rent reviews, the Government are concerned to promote more flexibility in the commercial property market. Hence last year, at the Government's request, the property industry introduced a stronger code of practice which makes recommendations to landlords on rent reviews, among other things. Although the code, 'The Code for Leasing Business Premises in England and Wales 2007', is voluntary, Communities and Local Government will be keeping an eye on the market and have not ruled out legislation as an option. The code can be found at:

www.leasingbusinesspremises.co.uk

On the subject of beer ties I refer the hon. Member to my answer to written parliamentary question 2007/2709.

With regards to amusements with prizes machines, the possessor of an on-premises alcohol licence, whether the lessee of a tied premises or an owner of a free house, is automatically entitled to offer up to two category C or D gaming machines (known before the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 as Amusement with Prizes machines), and to apply for an enhanced entitlement from the licensing authority under section 283 of the Act. The Government have no plans to review these provisions.

Public Houses: Competition

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals for legislation to remove ties from leased public houses tied to brewers owning more than 500 pubs; if he will *(a)* commission an investigation into the supply tie and *(b)* refer the matter of the supply tie and rent formulation to the Competition Commission; and if he will make a statement. [206879]

Mr. Thomas: Ensuring that markets operate freely and fairly is a matter for the independent competition authorities, rather than for the Government. The UK competition framework has established the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) as an independent statutory body which is responsible for ensuring that markets operate competitively, and it has the powers to investigate and take action if companies are abusing a dominant position in a market or behaving anti-competitively.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* amount and *(b)* value of renewable energy sold to customers in (i) the domestic sector, (ii) the commercial sector and (iii) the public sector in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [206100]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* Renewable energy sources can be used to generate electricity or heat.

	Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent	
	2005	*2006*
Electricity generation (renewables and wastes used to generate electricity)	4,018	4,232
Final consumption of renewables and wastes	612	603
Of which:		
Domestic	256	263
Public administration	100	87
Commercial	10	10

Source:
Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2007, tables 7.1 and 7.2.

Electricity generated from renewable sources is fed into the transmission and distribution grids along with electricity from fossil fuel and nuclear sources. For this reason, the amount of electricity sourced from renewables cannot be allocated to individual consuming sectors. Therefore the value of renewable electricity sold by sector is not available. The level of renewable heat sold is small, so price information is not collected, thus no value information is available.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what mechanisms are in place to monitor the take-up of renewable energy by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* public sector energy consumers; and if he will make a statement. [206102]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* Tables 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 of the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2007 provides final consumption data by sector for renewables and waste and also data for renewables and wastes used for electricity generation in 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Corresponding tables for earlier years are also available on the BERR energy statistics website at:

www.stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/dukes7_1-7_3.xls

The data in chapter 7 of DUKES are sourced from an ongoing study by AEA Energy and Environment on behalf of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to update a database containing information on all relevant renewable energy sources in the United Kingdom. This database is called RESTATS—the Renewable Energy STATisticS database at:

www.restats.org.uk

A copy of this document is available in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Energy: Housing

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of household grants that will be claimed under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme for *(a)* solar photovoltaics, *(b)* wind turbines, *(c)* small hydro, *(d)* solar thermal hot water, *(e)* ground source heat pumps, *(f)* biomass room heaters and stoves and *(g)* wood-fuelled boiler systems in (i) 2008 (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [202197]

Malcolm Wicks: Given that there have been approximately 4,300 domestic installations funded through the Householder Stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to date, we would estimate there to be approximately a further 8,000 domestic installations funded through the programme to scheme closure should all of the available funds be committed.

Details are shown in the following table:

Technology	*2006-07 (Actual)*	*2007-08 (Actual)*	*2008-09 (Estimate)*	*2009-10 (Estimate)*	*2010-11 (Estimate)*	*Phase 1 total (Estimate)*
Biomass room heater/stove (automated wood pellet feed)	1	8	11	9	6	35
Ground source heat pump	69	181	319	261	151	981
Small scale hydro	0	2	9	5	1	17
Solar photovoltaic	228	452	357	521	447	2,005
Solar thermal hot water	1,263	1,388	1,090	1,894	1,682	7,317
Wind turbine	177	345	218	347	270	1,357
Wood fuelled boiler system	34	104	182	156	111	587
Total	1,772	2,480	2,157	3,193	2,696	12,299

Resolving Disputes in the Workplace

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many written representations were received in the Resolving Disputes in the Workplace consultation; and if he will place copies of them in the Library. [207093]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The Department received 443 written representations to the consultation. The Government response to the consultation, which was published on 19 May 2008, summarises the range of representations received. Copies of the formal Government response are being placed in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail: Finance

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budgeted financial balance of the Royal Mail is for the financial year 2008-09. [206814]

Mr. McFadden: This is a commercial matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, chief executive of Royal Mail, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail: Lost Property

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of items posted by the public were lost by Royal Mail in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [207658]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail: Manpower

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the staff headcount of the Royal Mail was on 30 April 2008. [206815]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, chief executive of Royal Mail, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for how long the increase in the Small Firms Loan Guarantee scheme, announced in the Budget 2008, will last in Wales. [196158]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government announced that it will increase Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) lending limit allocations by 20 per cent. for one year, as part of its Enterprise Strategy, published alongside the Budget 2008.

More than 29 lenders UK wide make use of SFLG.

Textiles: Imports

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what quantity of *(a)* clothing and *(b)* other textiles was imported from India in each year since 1997. [205688]

Mr. Thomas: The following table shows data for UK imports of clothing and textiles from India.

	Apparel, clothing and accessories		*Textiles, yarn, made up articles, fibre and waste*	
	Value (£ million)	*Weight (Thousand tonnes)*	*Value (£ million)*	*Weight (Thousand tonnes)*
1997	272	24.8	311	122.9
1998	230	22.2	284	117.5
1999	260	26.4	254	113.3
2000	321	31.2	266	122.8
2001	349	35.9	286	117.8
2002	373	37.7	254	107.8
2003	393	39.4	253	107.2
2004	430	45.9	274	109.0
2005	606	63.7	251	96.2
2006	644	58.5	269	100.4
2007	751	70.8	289	108.6

Source:
BERR using HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics.

Tidal Power: River Severn

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the reasons were for not considering tidal stream as one of the options to be evaluated by the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study. [207455]

Malcolm Wicks: The feasibility study focuses on tidal range power generation because the key resource of the Severn estuary is its tidal range—it has the second highest tides in the world (up to 14 metres) and around 90 per cent. of total UK practical tidal range resource. Whereas, as the Sustainable Development Commission's recent study confirms (Turning the Tide, published October 2007) the tidal stream resource of the Severn estuary is much smaller and represents a minor part of the total potential of UK waters.

The feasibility study is however considering proposals for tidal stream development where this is in combination with tidal range development.

Trade: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much trade with Israel contributed to the United Kingdom's gross domestic product in each of the last five years for which information is available. [206124]

Mr. Thomas: The benefits of international trade to gross domestic product (GDP) result from greater economic efficiency due to a combination of increased competition in markets, relative comparative advantages, economies of scale, increased opportunities for learning, and greater incentives for innovation. Due to the difficulty of differentiating between the impact of trade and other factors on growth, it is not possible to quantify precisely the impact of trade with another country on GDP.

The following table indicates the scale of UK trade in goods and services to Israel for the years 2002-06 as a proportion of GDP:

					Percentage
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
UK exports to Israel: percentage of UK GDP at market prices	0.18	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.13
UK imports from Israel: percentage of UK GDP at market prices	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10

Geographical data for trade in 2007 are due to be published at the end of October.

UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Group

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the total cost of rebranding the Defence Exports Services Organisation as the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Group. [201654]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The estimated direct cost for the creation of the UKTI-DSO identity was approximately £15,000.

Utilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* accountability and *(b)* effectiveness of regulators of utilities. [205215]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government recently responded to the report on UK economic regulators by the House of Lords Committee on Regulators (November 2007, HL 189-II) which among other issues covered the accountability of regulators to Parliament as well as their accountability through the Competition Commission, impact assessments and consumer representation. In its response (February 2008, URN 08/648), the Government stated that:

> Regulators should be encouraged to think about whether they can be more proactive in using competition law, including market investigation references to the Competition Commission;
>
> Impact assessments provide transparency and as such should be an integral part of the policy-making process;
>
> The new National Consumer Council, to be established from 1 October 2008, will enhance consumer representation by being a more powerful consumer advocate.

With regard to effectiveness, Government maintains an active interest in looking at the regulatory regime as a whole, and has tasked the Better Regulation Executive with this role. However, as bodies independent from government, regulators assess their effectiveness through their own corporate governance structures. Further assessment beyond this is primarily a matter for Parliament.

Ministerial Visits

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which locations abroad the Minister of State for Trade and Investment has visited since his appointment. [204860]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* Since his appointment on 1 July 2007, the Minister for Trade and Investment has (as of 19 May 2008) visited the following overseas locations:

- Abu Dhabi
- Australia (Melbourne, Perth, Sydney)
- Bahrain
- Bulgaria (Sofia)
- Canada (Vancouver)
- China (Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan)
- Denmark (Copenhagen)
- Dubai
- France (Paris)
- Germany (Dusseldorf, Hannover)
- Greece (Athens)
- India (Chandigarh, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune)
- Japan (Tokyo)
- Libya (Tripoli)
- Morocco (Casablanca)
- Netherlands (Amsterdam)
- New Zealand (Auckland, Wellington)
- Qatar
- Romania (Brasov, Bucharest)
- Russia (Moscow)
- Saudi Arabia (Al Khobar, Riyadh)
- Switzerland (Davos, Zurich)
- Thailand (Bangkok)
- United States of America (Boston, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Brunswick, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix)

World War II: Medals

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Bevin Boys badges have been awarded to people in Hemsworth constituency. [207763]

Malcolm Wicks: To date, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, who are processing applications for the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge on behalf of the Department, have received 10 applications from people in the Hemsworth constituency.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 3 June 2008

PRIME MINISTER

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Prime Minister whether there were any *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships in 10 Downing Street in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206794]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 616W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Correspondence: Data Protection

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what investigations his Department has initiated on *(a)* the opening of confidential correspondence from a constituent of the hon. Member for West Chelmsford to the Pension Service in Burnley by the Royal Mail, *(b)* the circumstances in which the confidential information enclosed in the correspondence was returned to the sender enclosed with confidential information relating to other individuals and *(c)* the manner in which the information was returned to the sender; and if he will make a statement. [200965]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* Royal Mail is working as part of contracted arrangements with the Department to open the post received by the Pension Service. The correspondence that was sent in error to a member of the public, was recovered by the Department immediately the incident was reported, and the small number of affected customers were contacted and an apology given to them. The necessary action has been taken to protect the personal data involved.

Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 42W, on fraud, how many staff of his Department were responsible for each instance of fraud or attempted fraud *(a)* against the benefits system and *(b)* in other areas in each year since 2003. [204238]

Mrs. McGuire: The figures given in the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 42W, on fraud related to the number of cases investigated. In each case the investigation identified a single member of staff. The following table shows the number of cases of attempted or actual fraud where the Department's investigation was completed in the year stated. This analysis is consistent with the way in which the Department reports to HM Treasury on internal fraud.

	Employee fraud against the benefits system	*Other fraud by employees*	*Staff in post*
2003-04	23	78	130,786
2004-05	4	48	126,988
2005-06	52	118	119,972
2006-07	51	93	114,500

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 42W, on fraud, what estimate he has made of the losses from *(a)* the benefits system and *(b)* other areas from fraud committed by staff of his Department in each year since 2003. [204239]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available in the exact format requested from 2003 as the estimated losses can only be broken down into the specified categories from April 2005. Overall estimated totals are given for 2003-04 and 2004-05. The following tables show the estimated losses arising from attempted or actual fraud where the Department's investigation was completed in the year stated. This analysis is consistent with the way in which the Department reports to HM Treasury on internal fraud.

April to March each year	*All fraud value (£)*
2003-04	76,847
2004-05	52,857

£

April to March each year	*Benefit fraud value*	*Other fraud value*
2005-06	83,135	109,895
2006-07	435,452	72,782

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 42W, on fraud, how many staff in his Department who defrauded or attempted to defraud *(a)* the benefits system and *(b)* other areas worked in (i) his Department's offices at Westminster, (ii) Jobcentre Plus offices, (iii) the Pension Service, (iv) the Disability and Carers Service, (v) benefits delivery centres, (vi) the Child Support Agency and (vii) other offices operated by his Department in each year since 2003. [204241]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available in the exact format requested. We are able to provide the numbers of staff in 2003-04 and 2004-05 as set out in the following table. The table shows the number of cases of attempted or actual fraud where the Department's investigation was completed in the year stated. This analysis is consistent with the way in which the Department reports to HM Treasury on internal fraud. From 2005-06 onwards HM Treasury reporting requires details at departmental level only. In aggregate for 2005-06 there are 170 staff committing fraud and for 2006-07 the corresponding figure is 144.

Business	Number of staff committing fraud 2003-04	2004-05
Jobcentre Plus	73	40
Pension Service	7	6
Disability and Carers	7	1
Child Support Agency	4	2
Other	10	3
Totals	101	52

Pension Service: Swansea

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what volume of work was processed at the Swansea Pension Centre in each month in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* the first quarter of 2008. [201211]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following tables.

State Pension and Pension Credit Work processed at Swansea Pension Centre in 2005-06

	State pension applications	*State pension changes*	*Pension credit applications*	*Pension credit changes*
April 2005	3.9	18.1	2.9	22.2
May 2005	4.2	15.2	2.9	22.7
June 2005	4.4	18.3	2.9	24.7
July 2005	4.6	19.3	2.7	20.5
August 2005	3.7	14.0	3.1	23.8
September 2005	3.6	14.3	3.3	27.1
October 2005	3.1	12.4	2.8	25.8
November 2005	3.6	14.1	2.8	25.0
December 2005	3.2	13.2	2.4	18.2
January 2006	3.2	19.7	2.4	30.8
February 2006	4.2	19.1	3.0	34.6
March 2006	4.3	19.1	3.1	42.3

State Pension and Pension Credit Work processed at Swansea Pension Centre in 2006-07

	State pension applications	*State pension changes*	*Pension credit applications*	*Pension credit changes*
April 2006	3.7	14.9	2.4	20.8
May 2006	5.1	20.0	2.7	22.4
June 2006	5.9	17.2	3.3	26.1
July 2006	4.0	15.4	2.9	23.0
August 2006	6.3	16.7	3.4	21.9
September 2006	5.3	15.5	2.5	21.2
October 2006	4.4	19.8	2.5	24.4
November 2006	4.4	17.9	2.7	23.7
December 2006	3.7	16.8	2.4	16.8
January 2007	7.8	19.2	2.7	28.6
February 2007	6.2	21.0	2.4	35.3
March 2007	5.4	19.4	2.3	36.9

State Pension and Pension Credit Work processed at Swansea Pension Centre in 2007-08

	State Pension Applications	*State Pension Changes*	*Pension Credit Applications*	*Pension Credit Changes*
April 2007	4.7	18.3	2.9	23.2
May 2007	5.7	21.9	2.7	22.5
June 2007	6.3	18.1	2.4	20.9
July 2007	7.2	23.0	2.4	24.0
August 2007	6.2	22.7	2.6	24.3
September 2007	6.2	19.1	2.4	23.2
October 2007	7.8	25.5	2.5	25.4
November 2007	6.8	18.2	2.8	26.0
December 2007	4.0	11.1	1.6	21.6
January 2008	6.7	20.1	2.9	41.2
February 2008	5.8	21.5	2.5	43.8
March 2008	5.6	18.8	2.2	30.3

Notes:
1. Figures shown are in thousands.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. The Pension Service operate a virtual network of Centres and work is moved between operational units to support transformation.
Source:
Management Information Systems Programme up to March 2008

Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what types of personal information required to support claims for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* council tax benefit will not be required in the future; and what assessment he has made of the effects of a reduction in the volume of information required on the time taken to (i) process such claims and (ii) clear the backlog in claims processing. [204950]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have already reduced duplication in the provision of personal information for people claiming housing benefit and council tax benefit over the phone with pension credit. The Pension Service fill in a short claim form on the customer's behalf and the income and savings information supplied for the pension credit application is used for the housing benefit and council tax benefit claim.

And from October 2008, we are proposing to further streamline this claims process, so that no claim form for housing benefit or council tax benefit will be required. The housing benefit and council tax benefit information will be collected by the Pension Service and automatically passed to the relevant local authority to assess entitlement.

There are no proposals to change the types of personal information that are required to process claims for pension credit, housing benefit or council tax benefit. However, the types of personal information required to process claims to pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit are kept under review to ensure that where possible requirements are simplified relieving the burden on customers, whilst continuing to protect public funds.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many copies of the Draft Legislative Programme 2008-09 have been provided gratis; to whom; at what cost; and if she will make a statement; [207189]

(2) what provision is in place for the amendment of the Draft Legislative Programme 2008-09 following consultation; and if she will make a statement; [207190]

(3) whether any Bills were *(a)* changed and *(b)* dropped from the legislative programme following consultation on the Draft Legislative Programme 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [207191]

Helen Goodman: A total of 2,000 copies of the Draft Legislative Programme were provided gratis to all Members of both Houses and key stakeholders at a cost of approximately £24,000. A full 12-week consultation period on the draft programme is in progress until 6 August after which we will respond in the autumn and comments made will be taken into account in considering the content of the next Queen's Speech. The changes from the DLP and the final programme are a matter of public record and are set out on pages 7-8 of the Government's Draft Legislative Programme—Taking a Wider View (Cm 7248) which was published in November.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Home Addresses

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether arrangements will be put in place to screen mail whose senders are unidentifiable and which is received at hon. Members' home addresses, consequent on the release of such addresses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [207906]

Nick Harvey: All incoming mail for hon. Members will continue to be comprehensively screened prior to arrival at the House. Any additional screening would incur some extra cost.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 315, how many tanks will be sent to Afghanistan; by when these tanks will be delivered into theatre; how they will be delivered into theatre; at what cost; and when the policy to deploy tanks in Afghanistan was approved. [208084]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Secretary of State announced the deployment to Afghanistan of Warrior armoured fighting vehicles on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 619 and they were deployed on schedule last autumn. We have no plans to deploy Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks to that theatre.

Each Warrior costs approximately £85,500 to ship to Afghanistan via commercial heavy air lift. I am withholding the number of Warrior deployed in Afghanistan, as this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether measures are in place to ensure service personnel are offered *(a)* priority and *(b)* first refusal in buying (i) their accommodation and (ii) other service accommodation that is being sold off; [203981]

(2) how many and what percentage of Annington Homes' service accommodation units that have been sold have been bought by *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* service families since 1997. [203983]

Derek Twigg: The majority of service family accommodation properties in England and Wales are owned by Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) and leased by the Department until there is no longer a defence use for them, when they are handed back to AHL for disposal on the open market. While there is no obligation on AHL to offer discounts to current or former service personnel when selling its properties, it has in the past offered certain incentives, concessions or priority to personnel voluntarily. We understand that between 25 and 30 per cent. of properties have been sold in this way.

Surplus non-AHL residential properties in the United Kingdom are normally sold on the open market through competition in accordance with Treasury guidance in order to achieve the maximum receipt for the tax-payer. For these reasons, the Department is not able to offer priority, first refusal or discounts to service personnel. However, potential options are currently being explored to determine whether greater assistance might be given to service personnel. Currently, we are mindful of local needs and accordingly properties may be sold either individually or, in some cases, in bulk to local authorities or other registered social landlords as appropriate.

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were diagnosed with mental health problems in each year since 1997. [208058]

Derek Twigg: The information for each year since 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) has published two armed forces psychiatric morbidity reports which provide figures for the periods January to March 2007 and April to June 2007, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Kings college, London also publishes papers on military health research, which include mental health issues, and these can be obtained at the following link:

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/kcmhr/information/publications/publications.html#stress_ptsd

Armed Forces: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the results and findings of the Trauma Risk Management pilot. [205132]

Derek Twigg: The study is currently being written up by the Kings Centre for Military Health Research for submission to peer-reviewed academic journals. Once this process is successfully completed copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Central Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether EUFOR Tchad/RCA has reached full operational capability; [208163]

(2) what progress has been made in the EU's military missions in Chad and Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement. [208164]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The deployment of the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic is progressing on schedule and there are now over 2,500 troops in theatre. Initial operating capability was achieved on 15 March and the operation commander intends the operation to reach full operational capability by the end of June 2008.

The increasing presence of EUFOR troops on the ground has been broadly welcomed by international NGOs and UN agencies and the EUFOR mission is continuing to establish effective liaison with the UN on the parallel deployment of the UN policing mission (MINURCAT).

A joint EU/UN Technical Assessment Mission (TAM) will take place in June 2008. This will feed into the UN Secretary-General's mid-mandate report on EUFOR in September, which will identify follow-on options. This review process will provide a formal assessment of progress that has been made under EUFOR Tchad/RCA so far.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* locating, *(b)* recovering and *(c)* identifying the information held on lost or stolen (i) electronic equipment, (ii) documents and (iii) other data storage means in each of the last 12 months. [205516]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 179W, on departmental equality, what percentage of *(a)* senior civil service and *(b)* top management positions in his Department were held by women; what percentage of senior civil service positions were held by black and minority ethnic employees; what percentage of positions were held by black and minority ethnic employees in his Department as a whole; what percentage of senior civil service positions were held by disabled employees; and what percentage of positions were held by disabled employees in his Department as a whole. [208116]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* As at April 2008:

> the percentage of women in the core of our senior civil service was 12.2 per cent. If we include positions, such as MOD medical staff, who hold the equivalent grade, this figure is 14.5 per cent.;
>
> the percentage of women in top management positions is 10.4 per cent.;
>
> the percentage of senior civil service core positions that are held by black and minority ethnic employees is less than 1 per cent.;
>
> 3.1 per cent. of positions are held by black and minority ethnic employees in the Department as a whole;
>
> 4.2 per cent. of our core senior civil service positions are held by disabled employees (this percentage is based upon known records only, i.e. where individuals have declared what their disability status is); and
>
> 5.5 per cent. of positions within the Department as a whole (with known disability) are held by disabled employees.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205141]

Derek Twigg: Based on the Ministry of Defence's available records since May 2006, there were 109 official Defence bookings at a cost of £30,425.99.

A monthly breakdown of official usage, with cost (inclusive of value added tax) is given in the following table:

Bookings from May 2006 to May 2008

	Number of bookings	Cost (£)
Heathrow		
2006		
May	3	808.89
June	9	2,426.67
July	5	1,348.15
August	0	0.00
September	9	2,426.67
October	1	269.63
November	2	539.26
December	4	1,078.52
2007		
January	4	1,078.52
February	3	808.89
March	7	1,887.41
April	8	2,157.04
May	4	1,078.52
June	3	808.89
July	8	2,157.04
August	4	1,078.52
September	6	1,617.78
October	7	1,887.41
November	3	808.89
December	4	1,078.52

Bookings from May 2006 to May 2008

	Number of bookings	*Cost (£)*
2008		
January	2	539.26
February	3	808.89
March	4	1,078.52
April	4	1,692.00
May	0	0.00
Total	107	29,463.89
Gatwick		
2006		
May-December	0	0.00
2007		
January	0	0.00
February	1	480.80
March to October	0	0.00
November	1	480.80
December	0	0.00
2008		
January-May	0	0.00
Total	2	961.60
Luton		
2006		
May to December	0	0.00
2007		
January to December	0	0.00
2008		
January to May	0	0.00
Total	0	0.00
Stansted		
2006		
May to December	0	0.00
2007		
January to December	0	0.00
2008		
January to May	0	0.00
Total	0	0.00

Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the UK nuclear deterrent programme, including the Atomic Weapons Establishment, in each year from 1998 to 2008, expressed in cash terms. [208183]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The annual expenditure for capital and running costs of the UK nuclear deterrent programme, including the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, in each year from 1998 to 2008 is shown in the following table.

	£ billion at 2008-09 prices
1998-99	1.2
1999-2000	1.2
2000-01	1.2
2001-02	1.1
2002-03	1.1
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	1.2
2005-06	1.3
2006-07	1.6
2007-08	1.7

Royal Navy Vessels

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* estimate he has made of the volume and *(b)* assessment he has made of the types of outputs that arise from treatment by pyrolysis of wastes from Royal Navy vessels at sea; how these outputs are treated; and if he will make a statement. [207512]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A development programme for installing pyrolysis systems on to Royal Navy vessels,to process food and general waste, including paper, cardboard, tin cans, and plastic, is currently under way. During a successful period of shore-based testing, waste volume reductions in excess of 85 per cent. and mass reductions of 50 per cent. have been achieved.

Starting later this year, the pyrolysis system will begin a 12-month sea trial onboard HMS Ocean and it is anticipated that the typical daily volume of general waste produced on the vessel could be reduced by up to half. If the sea trials are successful, there are plans to fit the system to the other vessels in the Fleet.

There are two by-products of the pyrolysis process, a solid residue and waste gas. The solid residue cannot be discharged into the sea under MARPOL regulations so it will be sealed in steel pails and stored on board the vessel until it can be removed to landfill sites. The gas produced is well within the requirement of MARPOL regulations and the on-board processing unit will further refine it to bring it well within the parameters of more stringent land-based regulations, before release.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* assessment he has made of the types and *(b)* estimate he has made of the volume of residues from the treatment of wastes which were discharged at sea by Royal Navy vessels in each of the last five years. [207513]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records of discharges of wastes from Royal Navy vessels are retained on board. The RN does not routinely collate or estimate the total volumes of waste streams which are discharged at sea. Wastes are discharged in accordance with IMO Marine Pollution regulations.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Banks

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce legislation to give bank depositors the right to *(a)* appoint auditors, *(b)* receive accounts and *(c)* elect directors of a bank in which they hold deposits. [207899]

Mr. Thomas: I have no plans to do so. As outlined in the recent Draft Legislative Programme, my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Darling) intends to bring forward legislation later this year to strengthen depositor protection, and deal with banks in difficulty.

Credit: Access

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of consumers of working age experiencing difficulties gaining access to consumer credit, excluding mortgages, from mainstream providers as a result of the state of the credit market. [206699]

Mr. Thomas: We do not have specific statistics relating to estimates of working age consumers experiencing consumer credit difficulties.

However, the Bank of England reports total debt write-off for 2007 of £6,807 million, a small increase on 2006 (£6,749 million). In the last quarter of 2007 (latest data available), a total of £1,616 million debt was written off compared to £1,986 million in quarter 4 2006.

We remain very concerned to help those suffering from debt problems. In the last spending period, over £50 million was spent on face-to-face debt advice, for those experiencing difficulties with consumer credit, by BERR and MOJ. This will increase to £90 million in the period April 2005 to March 2011. Help is aimed at the financially excluded, of whatever age, and so far around 120,000 over-indebted clients have been helped, up until the end of March. BERR and MOJ will also support the National Debtline this year with grants of £1.75 million.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208132]

Mr. Thomas: My Department's food waste is 3 per cent. of turnover and has been budgeted at this level for the last five years. We monitor this by good ordering practices and portioning control when cooking and serving up.

Our caterers, Baxter Storey, constantly look at ways of reducing our waste. On 14 April 2008, we introduced a new waste system at our headquarters building, 1 Victoria street, which has been trialled and which involves all food waste being collected in bins, to be picked up weekly, and taken for composting.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200220]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not provide health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the statement made by my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327.

WALES

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208526]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Our records give no analysis by destination of our mail, but no more than a handful of letters will have been sent overseas.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether rates collected from owners of commercial buildings in Wales left unoccupied for more than six months are hypothecated for use in Wales. [207832]

Mr. Paul Murphy: All business rates liable on commercial property in Wales are collected and paid in to the Assembly's non-domestic rates pool. They are then redistributed back to local authorities as part of the local government revenue settlement each year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will complete the work on producing codes of conduct governing the advertising and promotion of unhealthy foods to children online or via mobile telephones, as outlined in the Prime Minister's speech of 7 January 2008. [207791]

Andy Burnham: Both the Government and industry recognise that the advertising regulatory system must remain effective in the digital age.

The advertising industry has therefore set up a Digital Media Group to develop proposals for extending the remit of the self-regulatory system, which currently has robust rules governing food advertising to children, to all types of mobile and online advertising.

The Government have committed to reviewing the work of the Digital Media Group in spring 2009.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether he plans to ask Ofcom to strengthen its restrictions on adverts on television for foods high in fat, sugar and salt which appear adjacent to programmes produced for children; [207792]

(2) whether he plans to further restrict adverts for foods high in fat, sugar and salt which occur when the highest number of children are watching television; [207793]

(3) whether he plans to impose further restrictions on the promotion of foods high in fat, sugar and salt across all broadcast and non-broadcast media. [207794]

Andy Burnham: As set out in the "Public Health White Paper" and the recent obesity strategy, the Government are committed to reviewing the food advertising regulations across all media. Furthermore, in July 2008 Ofcom will begin its own review of the impact of the current broadcasting restrictions on food promotion to children.

The findings of these reviews into the effectiveness of the food advertising codes will be taken into account in formulating and enforcing revised codes, if so needed.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the results of Ofcom's review of the advertising of unhealthy foods to children; and whether he is considering further restrictions in this area. [207796]

Andy Burnham: Both the Government and Ofcom are committed to reviewing the impact of the current restrictions on food promotion to children. Ofcom will begin its own review in July 2008 and will report its early findings as soon as possible. The findings of these reviews into the effectiveness of the food advertising codes will be taken into account in formulating and enforcing revised codes, if so needed.

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times the maximum fine was levied against a licensee for persistently selling alcohol to under-age people in each of the last two years. [193464]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The offence of persistently selling alcohol to children under section 147a of the Licensing Act 2003 was commenced in 2006. As yet there are no data available for this offence.

The following table covers the offence of selling etc. intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises.

Offenders[1] given fines and number given the maximum fine for selling intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises, magistrates courts, England and Wales, 2005-06. England and Wales

Number of offenders

		2005		2006	
Offence description	*Statute*	*Total number fined*	*Number receiving maximum fine[2]*	*Total number fined*	*Number receiving maximum fine[2]*
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises	Licensing Act 1964 SS.169A & 169B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1 Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 [Sch.Para.4(1)]	660	1	438	7

[1] Companies, public bodies etc.

[2] The maximum fine is £1,000.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice, 17 April 2008. Ref: AHA145-08

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list *(a)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* those non-departmental public bodies for which his Department has agreed new funding agreements for the next (i) year and (ii) three years. [207783]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is directly responsible for 54 non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), of which there are 42 executive NDPBs, 11 advisory NDBPs and one tribunal NDPB. These are as follows:

Executive NDPBs

Arts Council England
Big Lottery Fund
British Library
British Museum
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
Culture East Midlands
Culture North East
Culture Northwest
Culture South East
Culture South West
Culture West Midlands
English Heritage
Football Licensing Authority
Gambling Commission
Geffrye Museum
Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Trust
Horserace Betting Levy Board
Imperial War Museum
Living East
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
National Gallery
National Heritage Memorial Fund
National Lottery Commission
National Maritime Museum
National Museum of Science and Industry
National Museums Liverpool
National Portrait Gallery
Natural History Museum
Olympic Delivery Authority
Olympic Lottery Distributor
Public Lending Right
Royal Armouries
Sir John Soane's Museum
Sport England
Tate

UK Film Council
UK Sport
Victoria and Albert Museum
VisitBritain
Wallace Collection
Yorkshire Culture

Advisory NDPBs

Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites
Advisory Committee on National Historic Ships
Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection
Advisory Council on Libraries
Legal Deposit Advisory Panel
Public Lending Right Advisory Committee
Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art
Spoliation Advisory Panel
Theatres Trust
Treasure Valuation Committee
VisitEngland

Tribunal NDPB

Horserace Betting Levy Appeal Tribunal for England and Wales

We share responsibility for the Design Council with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Most of these executive NDPBs will be required to have a funding agreement. Work is well in hand to finalise the drafts. The majority should achieve formal signature soon. The British Library, Gambling Commission, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the Public Lending Right have already finalised their agreements. These four are all for three years.

Satellite Broadcasting: Freeview

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the introduction of Freesat on the level of the take-up among consumers of Freeview services. [206972]

Andy Burnham: Freesat is available to 98 per cent. of UK households and may enable those who experience difficulty in receiving Freeview service, to access subscription-free digital television. Some consumers may also install Freesat to access subscription-free high definition TV. However, it is too early to say what impact Freesat take-up will have on that of Freeview.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* television broadcasters and *(b)* Ofcom on recent cases of television broadcaster misconduct in the use of premium rate telephone services in viewer competitions and voting; and if he will make a statement. [205794]

Andy Burnham: I have had no recent discussions on this issue. However, there have been previous discussions with television broadcasters and Ofcom regarding the regulation of these services.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations receive funding from the licence fee; and how much they each receive. [207381]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The BBC is the only organisation that receives direct funding from the licence fee. Licence revenue for 2008-09 is estimated at £3.5 billion.

TV Licensing: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by TV Licensing; and at what cost. [207384]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* This is a matter for the BBC. I have, therefore, asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to write to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Act 1984: Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under the Building Act 1984, broken down by (A) offence and (B) local authority, in each of the last five years for which information is available. [207192]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has issued guidance to staff in her Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if she will make a statement. [208171]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government issues guidance to all staff to switch off their personal computers when not in use as part of the Department's wider carbon reduction strategy. The Department's Sustainable Operations Policy states that:

> Staff are expected to switch off monitors when leaving desk areas for more than five minutes and to ensure that all PCs, printers, photocopiers and other office equipment are switched off at the end of each day.

This guidance is also contained within staff induction material.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the number of fire and rescue authority staff on enhanced pensions who are to be made redundant as a result of the implementation of the FiReControl project; what estimate she has made of the cost of meeting the pension contribution top-up costs of these staff; and if she will make a statement; [205341]

(2) what estimate she has made of the net costs of redundancy, retraining and redeployment in respect of the FiReControl project as at 31 March; and if she will make a statement. [205346]

Mr. Dhanda: The employment of staff after the transfer is a matter for the Local Authority Controlled Companies (LACCs) that have been established to run the RCCs. Under TUPE arrangements existing members of Fire and Rescue Authority (FRAs) control rooms will transfer to the new Regional Control Centres (RCCs). Some staff subsequently could be made redundant—either because there is no suitable alternative post for them, or because it is unreasonable for them to transfer to the new location.

Under new burdens principles, funds will be available to meet the costs of redeployment, retraining and where necessary redundancy costs.

Until the TUPE process takes place, it is not possible to identify which individuals might have to be made redundant, and hence whether they are entitled to enhanced pensions.

Green belt: Standards

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraphs 6.62 to 6.64 of her Department's Annual Report for 2008, Cm 7394, what steps she plans to take following the failure to meet the Government's target on the area of disputed green belt land in each region over the period 2003 to 2007. [207739]

Mr. Iain Wright: Responsibility for creating and amending the area of green belt lies with regional planning bodies and local planning authorities. Proposals to make changes to green belt must be put forward in draft development plans, which are subject to public consultation and then to independent examination.

National policy on green belts is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, 'Green Belt'. This makes clear that permanence is the essential characteristic of green belt and that their boundaries should be altered only exceptionally. If such alterations are proposed, the Secretary of State in her role as consultee on the draft development plan will wish to be satisfied that the authority has considered opportunities for development within the urban areas contained by and beyond the green belt.

Houseboats: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the permanent mooring of a houseboat requires planning permission; what permitted development rights exist; and what national planning guidance has been issued by her Department on houseboats or riverside development. [208099]

Mr. Iain Wright: Houseboats fall outside of planning control unless moored for so long in the same place that they can be regarded as bringing about a material change of use of land. The permanent mooring of a boat for residential purposes where there was not one previously is likely to be a material change of use of land and planning permission would, therefore, generally be required. Similarly, works associated with the mooring of the boat might require planning permission if they amount to operational development. Ultimately, it is for the local planning authority to decide whether planning permission is required.

There are no specific permitted development rights for houseboats. No specific national planning policy guidance has been published in respect of houseboats or riverside development.

Housing: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the correlation between housing conditions and the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued to residents; and if she will make a statement. [207291]

Mr. Iain Wright: Neither my Department, nor the Home Office who lead on antisocial behaviour orders, has commissioned or evaluated research on the correlation between housing conditions and the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued to residents.

Housing: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* wholly private, *(b)* part rented/part purchased, *(c)* local authority and *(d)* housing association new dwellings were completed in the Borough of Islington in each of the last three years; and how many of each she expects to be completed in 2008-09. [207685]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is as follows:

New build for Islington

	Private new build completions[1]	*Low cost home ownership new build*[2]	*Local authority new build completions*[1]	*RSL social rent new build*[2]
2004-05	166	6	0	167
2005-06	353	24	0	198
2006-07	629	353	0	220

[1] *Source:* P2 new build as reported by Islington borough council and the National House-building council.

[2] *Source:* Housing Corporation

Note:

Information on completions in 2007-08 is not yet available. Information on forecast completions for 2008-09 is not available on this basis.

Housing: Leeds

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was taken from Leeds City Council in negative housing subsidy in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [207506]

Mr. Iain Wright: No money has been taken from Leeds city council in negative housing revenue account subsidy in *(a)*, *(b)*, or *(c)*.

Leeds is a net recipient of subsidy and received the following sums in each of the years shown as follows:

	Subsidy received (£)
2005-06	29,769,285
2006-07	27,214,716
2007-08[1]	31,323,761

[1] Not yet audited; may be subject to some change.

Housing: Registration

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce measures to require all landlords letting residential property to register with their local authority. [207453]

Mr. Iain Wright: We commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector in January. This is being carried out by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the Centre for Housing Policy at York university and will report in October. The review is looking at all aspects of the sector, including measures to raise standards and encourage the delivery of professional housing management. It would therefore be inappropriate to express any views at this stage that may pre-empt the findings of this review.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects or research have been commissioned from the Institute for Public Policy Research by her Department and its agencies in the last 12 months; and on what topics. [207558]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has not commissioned any research projects from the Institute for Public Policy Research in the last 12 months.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government are available from our research database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

Newts: Conservation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning regulations and directives protect the great crested newt. [208094]

Mr. Iain Wright: The great crested newt is listed on Annexes II and IV of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the habitats directive). It is protected under schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994 and schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Administrative guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation is contained in the Government circular: 'Biodiversity and Geological Conservation—statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system'.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. [208096]

Mr. Iain Wright: As stated in our publication on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) published on 24 January, subject to Parliament's decisions on the primary legislation (the Planning Bill), Communities and Local Government aims to formally consult on the draft CIL regulations in autumn 2008, with a view to finalising them in spring 2009.

The 24 January CIL publication "The Community Infrastructure Levy" is available in the Library of the House.

Planning Permission: Gardens

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the requirement for planning permission to pave over a front garden will be retrospective. [207560]

Mr. Iain Wright: There will be no retrospective element. Where work has been commenced before the law is changed it will be able to be completed. Similarly, existing paved gardens will not be affected by the amended regulations.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the estimated average cost of a planning permission application for a typical household is likely to be under the requirement for a planning permission to pave over a front garden; [207566]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of planning applications that will be made each year as a consequence of her proposals to require planning permission to pave over a front garden. [207567]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is expected that most people who want to pave over their front gardens will continue to do so without having to submit a planning application. As long as the area to be paved over remains permeable an application for planning permission will not be required. Where an application is required, the householder will have to pay the normal fee for a planning application, currently £150.

Based on an initial impact assessment, we estimate that between 120 and 1,200 householders a year will opt for impermeable surfacing for which they will require planning permission.

Planning: Public Participation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the consultation document on Planning Policy Statement 6 will be published; what the timetable for the consultation exercise will be; and if she will make a statement. [207838]

Mr. Iain Wright: We intend to publish a consultation document on revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6 this summer. The consultation will be conducted in accordance with the Department's usual procedures.

Rented Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to bring about convergence in public and private sector rents; and if she will make a statement. [207289]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans to bring about convergence between social sector rents and those of the private rented sector. Government policy is that social sector rents should be at sub-market rates.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether arm's-length management organisations will be able to access the fund to purchase unsold new houses and rent them to social tenants. [208152]

Mr. Iain Wright: The £200 million announced on 14 May will be used by the Housing Corporation to fund RSLs and others to purchase new properties from house builders.

We are allowing the Housing Corporation flexibility to take advantage of opportunities offered by the current housing market to fund RSLs and others to buy unsold stock from developers at competitive rates with a view to provision of either social rent or low cost home ownership. This will enable RSLs and others to take advantage of the competitive rates offered by the current market as well as helping developers at a challenging time in the new build market.

Some arm's-length management organisations are already able to bid to the Housing Corporation for funding in competition with other bidders as part of the regular market engagement process through which the affordable housing programme is being allocated. If ALMOs consider they can take advantage of the availability of grant to purchase new properties, the Housing Corporation would consider their applications.

Tenancy Agreements: Estate Agents

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to prevent estate agents from retaining the interest arising from tenant deposits over the period of a tenancy; and if she will make a statement. [207140]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans for further legislation on the holding of tenants' deposits. The Tenancy Deposit Protection measures introduced by the Housing Act 2004 are designed to safeguard the interests of both landlords and tenants and to promote good practice in deposit handling. There are two types of schemes available to landlords. There is a "custodial" scheme under which the landlord hands over the deposit for the duration of the tenancy. Where the deposit is returned to the tenant at the end of the tenancy interest is paid to the tenant. If the landlord chooses to use one of the two "insurance-based" schemes, under which the landlord retains the deposit and takes out insurance that will cover repayment to the tenant, the payment of any interest is for negotiation between the tenant and the landlord.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions exist on building Traveller camps on *(a)* green belt, *(b)* Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and *(c)* Sites of Special Scientific Interest. [208095]

Mr. Iain Wright: The same requirements apply to Gypsies and Travellers as to the settled community when seeking to build on the green belt. Planning permission is likely to be needed. Every planning application is decided on its merits in the light of local plan policies, but, under Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 on green belts, there is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the green belt. Inappropriate development should not be approved, except in very special circumstances, and it will be for the applicant to show why permission should be granted.

In Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, planning policies and development control decisions should give great weight to the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside. Planning Policy Statement 7, "Sustainable development in rural areas", states that major developments should not take place in these designated areas, except in exceptional circumstances. Whether a Traveller camp is considered a major development would be a matter for the planning authority.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected by law, and Planning Policy Statement 9, "Biodiversity and Geological Conservation", requires a high degree of protection to be given to SSSIs under the planning system. Where a proposed development is likely to have an adverse effect on an SSSI, planning permission should normally not be granted. If a particular activity on a site is listed on the SSSI notification as likely to damage features of special interest, the person wishing to carry out that activity must apply to Natural England for consent under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If Natural England has not given consent for such works it is an offence under that Act to carry them out. This protection is enforced.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many looked-after children there were on the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by local authority. [208126]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of looked-after children at 31 March 2003-07 broken down by local authority has been placed in the House of Commons Library (Table LAA1).

Table LAA1 is taken from the Statistical First Release entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007", which is located at http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml and table LAA1 can be found within the first set of 10 additional tables supplementing SFR27/2007 on the website.

Children: Disabled

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the quality of services provided to disabled children. [207423]

Kevin Brennan: In May 2007 the Government announced Aiming High for Disabled Children which is now a joint delivery programme between DCSF and Department of Health. DCSF are investing £430 million over this CSR period to transform short break services, improve accessible childcare for families with disabled children and improve the transition of disabled young people from child to adulthood.

Recent achievements include:

21 short break pathfinder areas announced in January 2008

10 childcare accessibility pilot sites announced on 15 May 2008;

£8.4 million additional funding to enable the Family Fund Trust to provide grants to 16 and 17-year-old severely disabled young people from low income families announced in the Children's Plan in December 2007

Publication on 15 May 2008 of the National Core Offer setting out national expectations of how services are delivered for disabled children, young people and families, and supporting materials to help LAs and PCTs implement the Core Offer locally.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to assist parents by increasing access to childcare for disabled children. [207425]

Beverley Hughes: The Government's Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, announced in May 2007, included additional funding of £35 million for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 to develop projects to improve access to childcare for disabled children and young people and to reduce the attitudinal barriers which inhibit the take-up of such childcare. 10 local authorities have been selected as the first wave of pilots in the Disabled Children's Access to Childcare programme, and will begin work in autumn 2008. Emerging best practice identified from these pilots will be rolled out more widely.

Children's Centres: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated to Warrington Borough Council for children's centres in each year since their inception. [207458]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Sure Start local programme and Sure Start children's centres actual expenditure from 2003-04 to 2006-07

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Children's Centre (Revenue)	0	37,626	327,644	1,074,679
Children's Centre (Capital)	0	0	450,170	1,612,330
Sure Start Local Programmes (Revenue)	1,036,767	1,228,700	1,372,533	1,374,325
Sure Start Local Programmes (Capital)	49,713	1,035,205	31,583	0

Notes:
1. The figures are actual audited expenditure.
2. The table includes information on funding for Sure Start local programmes, the precursors to children's centres. SSLPs have now made the transition into children's centres.

Sure Start local programme and Sure Start children's centres allocations from 2007-08 to 2010-11

£

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Children's Centre (Revenue)	1,339,816	1,929,604	2,498,955	2,973,907
Early Years Main Capital	1,636,104	974,405	1,270,051	1,043,007
Sure Start Local Programmes (Revenue)	1,218,250	1,216,984	1,186,313	1,090,998

Notes:
1. The figures are allocations. Actual audited expenditure is not yet available for 2007-08.
2. The 2007-08 capital allocation comprised blocks for Sure Start children's centres, extended schools, early years provision, child care and integrated projects. The figures for 2008-09 onwards comprise blocks for Sure Start children's centres (start-up and maintenance), early years provision (quality and access), and child care and integrated projects. It is for local authorities to decide how they spend the overall capital allocation between blocks.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205902]

Kevin Brennan: No officials in the Department were disciplined or dismissed for alleged breaches of data protection requirements or for the inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in 2005, 2006 or 2007.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207467]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has used delegated powers to introduce more extensive non-consolidated performance pay to reward for the most effective and best performers. Performance bonus rewards are based on a judgement of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The top 20-25 per cent. performers receive the highest bonus payment. During 2007, 50 per cent. of staff received a bonus worth between 2 per cent. and 4 per cent.

The breakdown of bonuses for the senior civil service for the 2007-08 financial year is set out in the following table:

	Number of bonus awards made to senior civil servants in DCSF	*Total cost of the bonuses awarded (£)*
2007-08	91	577,972.38

The breakdown of bonuses for all other staff is set out in the following table:

	Number of bonus awards made to all other staff in DCSF	*Total cost of the bonuses awarded (£)*
2007-08	1,894	1,346,407.61

The Department has no executive agencies.

Drugs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any officials in his Department were disciplined or dismissed for illicit drug taking in each of the last five years. [205912]

Kevin Brennan: No officials in the Department were disciplined or dismissed for illicit drug taking over the last five years.

Education: European Union

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* procuring and *(b)* distributing to schools in England the (i) Passport to the European Union and (ii) "The EU: what's in it for me" booklets, produced by the European Commission. [205644]

Kevin Brennan: These booklets are produced and distributed on request by the European Commission Representation in the UK. This Department has not incurred any expense in their procurement or distribution.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205144]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has no record of hiring VIP facilities or of making any payments to *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)*Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006.

Schools: Playing Fields

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* Leicestershire have disposed of playing fields since 1998. [206168]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* Since 1998 the proportion of schools that have had applications approved to sell school playing fields in *(a)* England has been less than 1 per cent. *(b)* the East Midlands, less than 1 per cent. and *(c)* Leicestershire, less than 1 per cent.

Special Educational Needs: Young Offenders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in young offender institutions has *(a)* special educational needs and *(b)* a special educational needs statement; and if he will make a statement. [207502]

Kevin Brennan: The information is as follows.

(a) The Department does not collect information centrally on the numbers of children in young offender institutions (YOIs) who have special educational needs (SEN).

However, an analysis by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) of 2006 ASSET data—the individual assessment tool for young offenders used by Youth Offending Teams—found that 25 per cent. of young offenders had special needs identified. This figure covers young offenders both in custody and the community.

(b) The Department does not collect information centrally on the numbers of children in YOIs who have a SEN statement. Local authorities do not have a duty to maintain SEN statements for young people in custody. Instead support is provided within the custodial institution by special educational needs coordinators and learning support assistants. However, the YJB analysis of 2006 data showed that of the 25 per cent. of young offenders (in custody or in the community) who had SEN, just over 60 per cent. had a statement.

Vocational Guidance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to support further development of the Skill Force charity's work in schools. [207884]

Kevin Brennan: We value the contribution made by Skill Force and other organisations in helping to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable children and young people in our schools. It is the responsibility of local authorities and schools to commission high quality and effective alternative provision that assists children and young people to maximise their potential.

We have recently published a White Paper "Back on Track" which sets out our strategy to transform alternative provision into a vibrant and successful part of the whole education system. We expect better and more strategic commissioning of alternative provision to help generate the conditions in which an effective market can operate, helping new providers to enter it and the better providers to expand their offerings.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Asylum

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to encourage other countries to protect refugees from violence and inhuman treatment. [207871]

Meg Munn: The Government use every appropriate opportunity to advocate the ratification of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention) by all countries. The Refugee Convention guarantees the right of a person who is a refugee within the meaning of the Convention not to be returned to a country or territory where they are at risk of persecution. The Government support the work of the Office of the UN high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR), the UN agency mandated to protect refugees. The UK is the seventh largest donor to the UNHCR (USD 52 million, 4.8 per cent. of contributions to the agency in 2006). The UK also contributes to operations on the ground to develop the capacity of countries hosting refugees to meet their obligations, for example, in Chad through the EU European Security and Defence Policy mission to protect internally displaced persons and refugees from Darfur.

In addition to the Refugee Convention, the UK advocates the ratification by all countries of the main international human rights instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, which provide the obligations to protect all individuals on their territory including refugees.

Burma: Asylum

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to protect the safety of Burmese refugees in states neighbouring Burma. [207870]

Meg Munn: The Office of the UN high commissioner for refugees is leading assistance to refugees from Burma, with support from international donors. The Thai Government are also engaged on the issue of Burmese refugees in Thailand.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development visited the Thailand-Burma border in January to see at first hand the plight of Burmese people who have been forced to flee from their country's repressive regime and the work being done by the international community to help them.

The Department for International Development is providing £1.8 million over three years to groups which provide assistance to Burmese refugees in Thailand as well as to internally displaced persons inside Burma. We also provided £400,000 last year to support basic health, livelihoods and education to displaced communities within Burma.

The UK is providing financial and political support for the work of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to address the needs of Burmese Rohingya refugees in southern Bangladesh, including the current provision of €1.5 million by ECHO to move around 10,000 unregistered refugees out of a makeshift camp and into newly-built dwellings. We continue to emphasise to the caretaker Government of Bangladesh the importance of a longer-term resolution of the Rohingya issue.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199185]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have a central mechanism in place to monitor the extent to which the FCO's internal and external correspondence and distribution of publications is carried out electronically.

To retrieve and collate the information needed from all of the departments within the FCO, and all overseas posts, would incur disproportionate cost.

Ethiopia: Somalia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on Ethiopia's involvement in human rights abuses in Somalia. [207314]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is aware of allegations of human rights abuses by Ethiopian troops in Somalia and has told Ethiopia, including at high level, that we expect them to adhere fully to international humanitarian law in Somalia. UN Security Council Resolution 1814, adopted unanimously on 15 May, calls on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law. The International Contact Group on Somalia issued a communique on 30 April which also raised concern for all human rights abuses in Somalia. We unreservedly condemn all proven incidents of human rights abuse and expect those responsible to face justice.

EU Budget

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's response was to the European Commission's proposal to extend to 15 June 2008 the deadline for member states to make proposals for reform of the EU Budget; and what discussions he has had with the Commission on its proposal. [207850]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government welcome the EU Budget Review and look forward to playing an active role in the debate. The extension to the deadline by three months for contributions to the EU Budget

Review public consultation is a matter for the European Commission, but we welcome efforts by the Commission to ensure a comprehensive consultation process.

Iran: Human Rights

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* arrest and charging of six members of the leadership of the Iranian Baha'i community and *(b)* the detention of other members of the group in Evin prison; and if he will make a statement. [207292]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of reports that, in the early hours of 14 May, six members of the seven-person group that co-ordinates Baha'i activities in Iran had their homes raided and searched by Ministry of Intelligence officers. They were subsequently taken to Evin prison in Tehran where they remain detained. The seventh member of the group has been detained since March. We do not know the grounds for their arrests or if they have been charged yet. This is not the first time that the leadership of the Iranian Baha'i community has been targeted and formal Baha'i administrative bodies have been banned since the early 1980s. We remain deeply concerned by the Iranian Government's refusal to respect the right of their citizens to freely adopt and practise a religion of choice and the ongoing systematic persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran in particular and we regularly raise our concerns with the Iranian authorities, bilaterally and through the EU. Following a recommendation by the UK, on 21 May the EU issued a public declaration expressing serious concern about the treatment of the Baha'is in Iran and calling for the release of these individuals. We will continue to raise this issue with the Iranian authorities.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations with regard to the rocket attack on Ashkelon by the Jabril Front and the Popular Resistance Committees; and if he will make a statement. [207184]

Dr. Howells: We condemn the continuing rocket attacks on Israel, including that on Ashkelon, by militants from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These are unacceptable and serve only to increase the suffering of ordinary Palestinians and Israelis. We have no specific plans to raise the Ashkelon attack at the UN but will continue to work with the Quartet, the UN and others in the international community to prevent all such attacks in future.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations with regard to the rocket attack on Yesha by the al-Quds Brigades; and if he will make a statement. [207185]

Dr. Howells: We condemn the continuing rocket attacks on Israel, including that on Yesha, by militants from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These are unacceptable and serve only to increase the suffering of ordinary Palestinians and Israelis. We have no specific plans to raise the Yesha attack at the UN but will continue to work with the Quartet, the UN and others in the international community to prevent all such attacks in future.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Arab states and (ii) the Government of Israel on rocket attacks by (A) the Jabril Front and the Popular Resistance Committees and (B) the al-Quds Brigades; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [207186]

Dr. Howells: We continue to be deeply concerned about rocket attacks against Israel. We have not raised the attacks by the Jabril Front and Popular Resistance Committees and the al-Quds Brigades specifically with either Arab or Israeli Governments. We do, however, condemn the continuing rocket attacks on Israel. We raise these issues with international partners and urge all to use their influence to prevent attacks in future.

Slovakia: Arms Trade

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met with the Slovakian Foreign Minister to discuss arms sales to non-EU countries. [207211]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary meets his Foreign Minister counterparts regularly at EU General Affairs and External Relations Councils and discusses various subjects. No specific discussions have taken place about arms sales to non-EU countries.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to secure targeted sanctions against the Government of Sudan in relation to improving respect for human rights in Darfur. [207313]

Meg Munn: We continue to discuss the possibility of further sanctions with other members of the UN Security Council as one of a range of measures to resolve the crisis in Darfur. We would consider supporting sanctioning any party to the conflict for destabilising the region, impeding progress on the political process, obstructing the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur deployment or humanitarian access and human rights abuses.

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he proposes to take *(a)* at the UN Security Council and *(b)* in other fora in response to Sudan's non-compliance with the current warrants issued by the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement. [207151]

Meg Munn: The UK sponsored the UN Security Council Resolution 1593 of March 2005 which referred the human rights situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The UK fully supports the ICC and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the need for Sudan to comply with the ICC in his meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor on 28 April.

The UK continues to press the Government of Sudan, at all levels, to comply with the ICC requirements. We have also raised Sudanese compliance with the ICC with partners, including in the UN Security Council, who have influence over the Government of Sudan.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to encourage enforcement of the International Criminal Court arrest warrants relating to Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [207152]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I have given to parliamentary written question 207151.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that consideration of Sudan's failure to co-operate with the International Criminal Court is included in the terms of reference of the forthcoming UN Security Council mission to Sudan. [207153]

Meg Munn: A UN Security Council mission is currently in Africa, and Sir John Sawers, UK Permanent Representative to the UN is taking part. Included in the terms of reference for the mission is the need to ensure that all Security Council resolutions are implemented and that the rule of law is upheld. We see this as the basis for raising the issue of Sudanese co-operation with the International Criminal Court.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan on meeting the requirements of the International Criminal Court warrants issued against Ahmed Harun and Ali Kushayb for crimes in Darfur. [207312]

Meg Munn: The UK fully supports the International Criminal Court (ICC) and we continue to press the Government of Sudan, at all levels, to comply with the ICC requirements. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the need for Sudan to comply with the ICC in his meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor on 28 April.

Zimbabwe: Economic Situation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the economy of Zimbabwe. [207176]

Meg Munn: The Zimbabwean economy continues to collapse. Whereas prices had been doubling once a month, they now double once a week. Inflation for February was officially 165,000 per cent but according to leaked Government figures for March it has now risen to 355,000 per cent. Unofficial estimates are much higher. Scarcity of basic food supplies, petrol and simple household goods continue due to price controls, making the black market the only option—but only for those who can afford it. Recent partial liberalisation of exchange control mechanisms is too little too late to make any real impact on the economy—and could be reversed. The continued printing of money by the Reserve Bank is fuelling further hyperinflation. There is also the prospect of new, flawed indigenisation law being implemented aggressively and further damaging the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the costs of the Park for Women in Lashkar Gah have been; and what assessment he has made of its performance against its objectives. [207786]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Bolan Park was built in Bolan, Lashkar Gah, with funding from the UK Government in 2007. The park was built at the request of the Governor of Helmand and relevant government of Afghanistan line departments, by the Afghan NGO Helping Afghan Farmers Organisation (HAFO). Much of the work was carried out using local labour. Funding for the project was provided through the UK-led provincial reconstruction team from a pool of funding jointly provided by the MOD, FCO and DFID.

This park is open to men, women and children with one day each week being set aside for women's exclusive use. The park cost around £420,000 and was built alongside the Helmand river. The costs of the park reflect the fact that during construction gabion walls were put in place to support the river bank, which helps prevent erosion, and to support the Bolan bridge. In addition, the park has extensive lighting which at night is important for improving security.

The park is popular and is in constant use, with children using it every day after school. It functions as a symbol for security and development in the area. One of the first major events hosted at the park was a US-funded agricultural fair to promote legal livelihoods attended by 1,700 Afghans. Recently the park was the venue for a successful cultural event organised by the Governor which attracted more than 2,000 local people.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on trends in the level of violence in Northern Ireland. [205358]

Paul Goggins: Efforts are being made across the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland to drive down crime and make Northern Ireland safer for everyone. As the PSNI crime statistics for 2007-08 show, violent crime is 7.6 per cent. lower than the previous year.

Findings from the 2006-07 Northern Ireland Crime Survey and British Crime Survey suggest that violent crime victimisation (prevalence) rates have fallen in both jurisdictions.

I meet with the Chief Constable of the PSNI and the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board on a regular basis to discuss their assessment of crime levels and trends.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign national prisoners were transferred from Northern Ireland to serve their sentence in their home country in the last year for which information is available. [206897]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service has not transferred any foreign national prisoners from Northern Ireland to serve their sentence in their home country in the last year.

Shoplifting

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of shoplifting offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age; and what average sentence was imposed on those who were given custodial sentences. [207750]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 outlines the number convicted of shoplifting broken down by sex while Table 2 shows the same information broken down by age group. The average custodial sentence lengths for shoplifting offences are documented in Table 3.

Data cover the calendar years 1997 to 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number convicted of shoplifting offences by sex 1997 to 2006

	Male	Female	Total
1997	543	247	790
1998	571	240	811
1999	469	164	633
2000	512	231	743
2001	453	178	631
2002	409	162	571
2003	417	183	600
2004	392	170	562
2005	354	203	557
2006	349	146	495

Table 2: Number convicted of shoplifting offences by age group 1997 to 2006

	Age group								
	10-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and over	Missing[1]	Total
1997	175	214	93	167	83	41	12	5	790
1998	162	227	104	157	105	47	9	0	811
1999	111	173	79	138	74	40	11	7	633
2000	167	189	90	155	82	43	17	0	743
2001	166	171	65	108	80	37	4	0	631
2002	149	158	59	100	69	29	7	0	571
2003	119	176	61	110	88	42	4	0	600
2004	118	163	58	112	62	39	10	0	562
2005	73	189	59	108	86	39	3	0	557
2006	60	152	61	107	64	40	11	0	495

[1] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom age information is not available.

Table 3: Number sentenced to immediate custody and average sentence length (in months) for shoplifting offences 1997 to 2006

	Number sentenced to immediate custody	Number for which sentencing length data are available[1]	Average sentence length (in months)
1997	79	66	3.9
1998	100	89	4.2
1999	101	98	5.5
2000	119	107	4.0
2001	82	76	3.2
2002	85	84	3.4
2003	82	78	4.1
2004	74	67	3.6
2005	73	68	3.4
2006	58	57	3.3

[1] The difference in the number sentenced to immediate custody and number for which sentencing data are available relates to the number sentenced to training school orders (1997-99) and Juvenile Justice Centre orders (1999 to 2006). Data on sentence lengths for these types of disposal are not available. In 2000, there is one additional offender for whom the sentence length is not available.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Pay

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the range of pay offers for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is for equivalent grades across Government Departments; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects on flexible working across Government Departments. [195385]

Mr. Watson: Departments have delegated authority to determine their own pay and grading arrangements below the senior civil service that are tailored to meet their own particular business, operational and workforce needs. Under the delegated pay arrangements, Departments are responsible for managing their own pay negotiations within financial parameters agreed by HM Treasury. Information on pay offers is not held by the Cabinet Office. Cabinet Office officials continue to work with Departments, HM Treasury and the civil service unions to improve the operation of the delegated arrangements, including action to narrow unjustified pay gaps between Departments for staff doing similar work.

For the senior civil service, for whom pay arrangements are managed by the Cabinet Office, the Senior Salaries Review Body is currently considering pay recommendations for the next three years.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office staff canteen at 22 Whitehall has been registered with Westminster City Council as a food business premises. [202933]

Mr. Watson: The staff restaurant at 22 Whitehall is operated on behalf of the Cabinet Office by its facilities management provider Ecovert, who registered it as a food business premises.

Government Departments: Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Secretary's review of data security will specify which Departments have notified the Information Commissioner of data breaches in the last 12 months in light of the Commissioner's recent statement on departmental breaches. [207354]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 17 December 2007, providing an interim report on progress made to ensure that all Departments and agencies check their procedures for handling data and outlining any steps already taken. Within that report was the recommendation that Departments should cover information assurance within their annual reports. A further statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many copies of the Morning Star *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* 10 Downing Street purchase each day. [191143]

Mr. Watson: None.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what planning applications the Cabinet Office has made to Westminster City Council in relation to properties in Whitehall since 1997; and what the *(a)* planning reference number and *(b)* purpose of each application was. [194405]

Edward Miliband: Since June 2006 all planning applications have been available via the Westminster city council Website:

> www.westminster.gov.uk/environment/planning/applications/search.

Prior to June 2006 the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

TREASURY

Pre-School Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending the early years education entitlement to *(a)* two-year-olds in households below 60 per cent. of median income and *(b)* all two-year-olds. [206904]

Yvette Cooper: The Children's Plan: building brighter futures published by the Department for Schools and Families in December 2007 announced an additional £100 million to extend the offer of up to 15 hours of free early education and childcare to 20,000 two-year-olds in the most disadvantaged communities.

As with the response I gave her on 2 June, *Official Report*, columns 719-20W relating to extension to the 3 and 4-year-old offer, to estimate the costs of a further extension of the two-year-old offer would require an analysis of childcare costs and other factors at the time of implementation, and of the impact on both supply and demand for provision in the childcare market. Costing a targeted extension would require an assessment any extra cost from targeting and any differences in the cost of making provision available to particular groups.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: Weston-Super-Mare

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of the people housed so far in the ClearSprings bail hostel recently established in Weston-Super-Mare are convicted offenders. [207454]

Mr. Hanson: ClearSprings provide private rented accommodation only to those people who are otherwise suitable for release on bail or Home Detention Curfew but who do not have an address. The accommodation are not bail hostels. To date five people have benefited from the service provided by ClearSprings in Weston-super-Mare, which has three bed spaces. One was an offender.

Coroners

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the criteria are for determining coroners' courts *(a)* location, *(b)* relocation and *(c)* closure of coroners' courts; what (i) primary and (ii) secondary legislation governs such considerations; what changes have been made to each since enactment; what recent representations he has received on the location of coroners' courts; and if he will make a statement. [207127]

Bridget Prentice: Section 5(2) of the Coroners Act 1988 provides that a coroner must hold inquests within his or her district. The Act is silent on relocation and closure of coroners' courts and there is no other primary or secondary legislation which deals specifically with the location, relocation, or closure of coroners' courts. The location of the inquest hearing within his or her district is a matter for the coroner and will be subject to the availability of suitable accommodation. I have not received any recent representations on the location of coroners' courts. However, from time to time my Department receives representations on problems with the availability of accommodation for inquests. On these occasions, my officials liaise with the coroner, the local authority and, when appropriate, the local court administration to help find a suitable solution.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many coroners' courts his Department plans to relocate in the next 12 months; what the reason is in each case; and if he will make a statement; [207128]

(2) how many coroners' courts have been closed in each of the last five years; and what the reason for closure is in each case; [207129]

(3) how many coroners' courts have been relocated in each of the last five years; and what the reason for relocation was in each case. [207130]

Bridget Prentice: My Department has no direct responsibilities for the location or relocation of coroners' courts. Under Section 5(2) of the Coroners Act 1988 a coroner must hold inquests within his or her district. Approximately 30 per cent. of coroners have dedicated court facilities provided to them by their local authority. The remainder use other accommodation including court rooms in magistrates courts on a sharing basis, or accommodation provided by the local authority such as council chambers. Coroners will often use more than one building for holding their inquests, subject to availability and the specific requirements of the inquest. All arrangements for coroners' court accommodation are made locally and information about the closure and relocation of coroners' courts is not held centrally.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 63W, on departmental official hospitality, how many people attended each reception he hosted. [208113]

Mr. Straw: Pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 63W on departmental official hospitality, in my capacity as Secretary of State for Justice, in the last 12 months I have hosted six receptions for a range of organisations and groups. The number of attendees at each reception is listed as follows:

4 July 2007

Reception for Senior Leaders (SCS) from the Ministry of Justice at Selborne House. (100 attendees)

19 July 2007

Reception for front line staff and Ministry of Justice stakeholders at Lancaster House. (170 attendees)

25 July 2007

Reception for media stakeholders at Selborne House. (70 attendees)

1 October 2007

Lord Chancellor's breakfast. This is an annual event hosted by the Lord Chancellor to mark the beginning of the Legal Year. Senior Judiciary from the UK and overseas are invited. (500 attendees)

6 November 2007

Reception for Senior Judiciary following the State Opening of Parliament. (50 attendees)

15 January 2008

Reception for media stakeholders at Selborne House. (70 attendees)

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206219]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is in the following table.

Name of public participation activity	*Name of consultancy*	*Cost of activity (£)*	*What they were commissioned to do*
2005			
Democratic Engagement: Digital Dialogues	Hansard Society	34,200	The Digital Dialogues project investigates the use of online technologies (weblogs, webchats and forums) to promote dialogue between central Government and the public. Examples include online discussion forums on the openness of the family courts at the then DCA. Each stage of the project is followed by an evaluation report
2006			
Draft Coroners Bill: Users' experience of the coroners' courts	Ipsos-MORI	11,500	Survey to gather information on recent users' experience of, and satisfaction with, coroners' services
Draft Coroners Bill: Public Pre-Legislative Scrutiny by Bereaved People's Panel	Opinion Leader Research	15,500	Workshop to enable members of the public with recent experience of the coroners' service to give feedback to the Government on the measures in the draft Coroners Bill
Draft Coroners Bill: Service families' experiences of the inquest process	Opinion Leader Research	4,700	Event to gather information about the experiences of Iraq service families who had gone through the inquest process
Democratic Engagement: Youth Event—Solent Theatre	Solent People's Theatre	5,700	Facilitated event for Ministerial Youth Outreach Programme hosted by Bridget Prentice as Minister for Youth Engagement. This interactive event called 'Youth Shout: Your Voice Counts' was attended by 143 young people (most from primary schools), 19 MPs and 41 councillors

Name of public participation activity	*Name of consultancy*	*Cost of activity (£)*	*What they were commissioned to do*
Democratic Engagement: Radiowaves	Synergy TV	5,700	Radiowaves Voice It! pilot. Project to encourage and equip 11 to 18-year-olds to become citizen journalists and hold interviews with decision-makers which are published on the Radiowaves website and shared with a global audience
Democratic Engagement: Digital Dialogues	Hansard Society	37,400	Phase 2—Report on second phase published in September 2007
2007			
Democratic Engagement	Hansard Society	35,400	Digital Dialogues Phase 3—ongoing
Democratic Engagement	Involve	17,500	'Participation Partners': Bespoke coaching support from expert participation practitioners (Involve) to assist with all aspects of public engagement exercises; project evaluation and case studies to be disseminated across government
NOMS consultation: NOMS Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending	Frameworks Ltd.	25,000	Organisation and running of national stakeholder consultation event
Consultation on: NOMS Believing we can	CLINKS (third sector organisation)	10,000	Ran two faith stakeholder events in the North West
NOMS consultation: NOMS Third Sector Strategy	CLINKS	20,000	Ran four third sector stakeholder events
Joint consultation events for Believing we can/NOMS Third Sector Strategy	Futures Unlocked (third sector organisation)	[1]9,000	Ran consultation events and developed third sector and faith alliances in the East Midlands
Joint consultation events for Believing we can/NOMS Third Sector Strategy	Lincolnshire Action Trust (third sector organisation)	[1]8,950	Ran consultation events and developed third sector and faith alliances in the East Midlands
Consultation on MOJ Third Sector Strategy	Sand Resources Ltd.	35,000	35 days' consultancy work. Contracted to draft MOJ consultation paper, help analyse responses and help produce final strategy paper. Also contracted to help analyse responses to NOMS Third Sector Action Plan and help develop final NOMS Action Plan called 'Working with the Third Sector to reduce reoffending 2008-2011'
Draft Coroners Bill: Reporting restrictions in coroners; courts	Opinion Leader Research	8,000	Workshop to reach consensus among key stakeholders (including media and voluntary group representatives and coroners) on the Bill's reporting restrictions proposals
OCJR consultation: Improving the criminal justice process for young witnesses	Ipsos MORI	1,000	Workshops on proposals for young witnesses
OCJR consultation: Improving the criminal justice process for young witnesses	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children NSPCC (third sector organisation)	1,000	Workshops on proposals for young witnesses
Democratic Engagement: Radiowaves	Synergy TV	148,750	Radiowaves Voice It! roll-out. The objective of Radiowaves is to help young people develop the knowledge they need to confidently get involved in democratic processes
Democratic Engagement: www.peopleandparticipation.net	Involve	15,100	Website jointly funded with Communities and Local Government to provide practical help and advice for Government officials on public participation methods etc.
The Insight Project	Ipsos MORI and Promise	[2]200,000	Initiative to assess awareness of and attitudes towards Human Rights among both the general public and staff in public services in the Health and Social Care sectors

Name of public participation activity	*Name of consultancy*	*Cost of activity (£)*	*What they were commissioned to do*
Human Rights Campaign	Four Communications	31,050	Four Communications were engaged to assist the Campaign Team to strengthen awareness of the Human Rights Act 1998. This involved identifying opportunities for speeches, articles and interviews by MOJ Ministers on the Human Rights Act as well as designing promotional material such as a leaflet promoting the Human Rights Act
2008			
NOMS consultation on Best Value in Probation NOMS (2008)	Quatrosystem Ltd.	3,000	Facilitate two events for third sector, private sector and public sector providers of criminal justice services and provide feedback

[1] Grant funding.

[2] First payments of this sum made in 2006.

Notes:

1. The following sums are not considered by the Department as relevant for inclusion:
Sums paid to the Central Office of Information (COI), as it is a Crown body and Government Department.
Sums paid to consultants who advised on the procurement of public participation activities rather than conducting the public participation activities themselves.
2. The figures given are generally rounded to the nearest 100 and inclusive of VAT.

Departmental Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals recruited into his Department and its agencies are subject to (i) UK and (ii) overseas criminal record checks; and if he will make a statement. [206473]

Bridget Prentice: In line with Government protocols, the Baseline Personnel Security Standard is applied as a minimum to everyone who makes an application to work in the Ministry of Justice. The Baseline Personnel Security Standard has been in effect from April 2007, where members of the public applying for employment within MOJ are asked to provide information and documentation to confirm their identity, employment or educational history, nationality and immigration status and criminal record (unspent convictions only).

However, some posts may require a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure at standard or enhanced level, dependant on the nature and sensitivity of the post. The CRB cannot currently access overseas criminal records or other relevant information as part of its disclosure service. Where a lack of UK residence makes it impossible to carry out meaningful checks in the UK, Departments are advised to require prospective employees to provide official and verifiable overseas police certificates obtained from the country or countries of residence (where these are available). A Steering Group, chaired by the Home Office, is taking forward work to improve access to overseas convictions.

Prisoners Release: Overdoses

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 68-9W, on prisoners release: overdoses, what initiatives are in place to reduce the risk of drug-related deaths following release from prison; how the effectiveness of those initiatives is measured; for what reasons data showing the number of ex-offenders who die from a heroin overdose within a fortnight of leaving prison are not routinely collected; and if he will make it his policy to collect such data. [207703]

Mr. Hanson: Prisons have in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, many elements of which are designed to reduce the risk of drug-related deaths on release from prison:

> Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare (CARAT) teams provide harm minimisation to prisoners prior to release;
>
> working with offender managers and the Drug Interventions Programme, CARAT teams facilitate throughcare arrangements to ensure drug treatment is continued on release; and
>
> the integrated drug treatment system, the clinical elements of which will be introduced into all prisons by 2011, will improve considerable the quality of treatment.

The CARAT service is subject to regular audit for effectiveness. A major research strategy is planned on the effectiveness of the integrated drug treatment system. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has also conducted research studies into drug-related death.

There is no single case tracking system that follows individuals across community-criminal justice system treatment boundaries nor linked to the National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (npSAD). There are also significant delays inherent in the process for recording causes of death. Instead, NOMS relies on research studies to produce trend data.

NOMS together with the National Treatment Agency is exploring the feasibility of introducing into prisons the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System. This offers the potential of obtaining a better picture of treatment outcomes but would not capture ex-offenders who died while not engaged in treatment.

Young Offender Institutions: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1151W, on young offender institutions: mental health services, which young offender institutions do not provide child and adolescent mental health support (CAMHS) on site; and which institutions in England provide CAMHS treatment for inmates from young offender institutions in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [207367]

Mr. Hanson: All young offender institutions (YOIs) in England have access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) at Tiers 1 to 3, delivered on site, by a range of staff including primary health care staff, education staff, youth justice workers, psychologists, prison officers, child and adolescent psychiatrists, social workers, clinical psychologists.

Tier 4 CAMHS, the level of service for children and young people with serious problems who require highly specialised in-patient treatment, will usually be delivered off-site.

The Secure Forensic Mental Health Service for Young People oversees in-patient treatment and referrals to seven specialist NHS secure hospital units for under-18s throughout England. These are: Roycroft (Newcastle), Gardener (Manchester), Ardenleigh (Birmingham), Bill Yule (Beckenham, South London), Wells Unit (Middlesex), Malcolm Arnold Unit (Northampton) and Bluebird House (Southampton).

The commissioning of secondary/tertiary care health services to YOIs based in Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government/NHS Wales.

TRANSPORT

Climate Change

11. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential contribution that extending rail services can make to tackling climate change; and if she will make a statement. [207981]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rail generally performs well from a carbon perspective. The average carbon emissions from someone travelling by car are roughly double those of someone travelling by train.

Extending train services will result in an increase in rail carbon emissions from the longer or additional trains operated. However, because some of the passengers attracted to the new services would otherwise have driven a car for the trip, this increase will be partly offset by a reduction in carbon emissions from road traffic.

Rail Passenger Security

12. **David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to improve the personal security of railway passengers. [207982]

Mr. Tom Harris: The railway is a low crime environment with around 120 offences per million passengers. The British Transport Police's crime statistics for 2007-08 show that for the fourth year running, crime is down 11 per cent. despite 1.2 billion passengers travelling on the network, the highest numbers since the war.

Concessionary Fares

13. **Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider the merits of providing carers and companions of disabled people with the same concessionary fares as those that they are caring for or accompanying are entitled to. [207983]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no plans at present to extend statutory concessionary travel to include carers or companions of disabled people. Local authorities have an existing flexibility to offer enhancements such as this to their residents. The scheme in the hon. Member's constituency does this by offering a companion pass to its eligible disabled residents.

19. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has considered the merits of a national concessionary bus far scheme for young people. [207990]

Ms Rosie Winterton: At present, there are no proposals to make concessionary travel a statutory entitlement for young people. Any extensions to the scope of the statutory minimum would bring with them associated costs and would require careful consideration of the full impacts.

Cyclists

14. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to improve the safety of cyclists on roads. [207984]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Measures to improve the safety of cyclists on roads include providing better infrastructure, funding cycle training, improved training and testing for motorists and encouraging cyclists to protect themselves, by making themselves conspicuous and by wearing a safety helmet.

Other initiatives such as anti-drink-drive and speeding campaigns and the provision of 20 mph zones can also contribute to cyclist safety. Earlier this year we announced an extra £140 million over the next three years to promote more cycling, some of which will be for cycle training and some for providing more safe routes to schools, as well as supporting more cycle demonstration towns.

Driving Education

15. **Mrs. Humble** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on young people learning about driving in schools. [207985]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As part of developing our plans for a foundation certificate for safe road use contained in our Learning to Drive consultation, published on 7 May 2008, the Secretary of State for Transport met the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on 5 November 2007 and her officials had discussions with officials in his Department.

St. Pancras

16. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the opening of the high speed rail service from St. Pancras on the proportion of passengers choosing to travel to cities on the continent of Europe by *(a)* rail and *(b)* air. [207986]

25. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the opening of the high speed rail link to St. Pancras on the proportion of passengers choosing to use *(a)* rail and *(b)* air transport from the UK to destinations on the continent of Europe. [207996]

Mr. Tom Harris: The opening of the high speed rail service from St. Pancras has been a success. Eurostar report a 21.3 per cent. rise in passenger numbers in the first quarter of 2008 compared with the same quarter last year.

The Department has not made any formal assessment of the modal shift that this represents. It is nevertheless likely that some at least of the increase will be due to passengers switching from air to rail.

Community Transport Groups

17. **Mr. Anthony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to help community transport groups extend the range of services they offer. [207988]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Transport Bill, currently awaiting Report stage, contains provisions that would give greater flexibility over the size of vehicle used by community transport groups, and remove the restriction on paying drivers of vehicles used to provide community bus services.

West Coast Main Line

18. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Network Rail on the quality of service on the west coast main line. [207989]

Mr. Tom Harris: I continue to press Network Rail about performance across the network. Officials are investigating the performance issues and I will be seeking an update from Network Rail at the next Performance Delivery Group meeting on 18 June. The group is an industry-wide body that I chair which meets on a four weekly basis.

Rail Freight

20. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make an assessment of the merits of further spending on rail freight stock capacity; and if she will make a statement. [207991]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have no plans to make an assessment of the merits of further spending on rail freight rolling stock. The acquisition of such equipment is a commercial matter for the private sector train companies that operate rail freight services.

Driving Tuition

21. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS, on learning to drive, what estimate her Department has made of the change in costs for learner drivers arising from the implementation of her proposals on driver training and testing. [207992]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our aim is to develop more effective and efficient driver training and testing arrangements to improve road safety without increasing the average cost of learning to drive which we estimate currently to be some £1,500. Estimates of cost are included in the partial impact assessment published alongside the consultation document.

Cycling

22. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support her Department provides for employers who wish to encourage their workforce to cycle to work. [207993]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We encourage people to cycle to work through a range of initiatives aimed at creating a cycling culture. We have helped the cycle industry develop the 'Cycle to Work' scheme which takes advantage of a tax exemption to provide bikes for staff to cycle to work and offers a way to cut substantially the cost of bikes to employees. We have also published guidance for employers on how they can encourage cycling among their staff in our "Essential Guide to Travel Planning" and are promoting cycling to employers through our 'National Business Travel Network'.

Nationally, we are supporting Cycling England with £140 million over three years to increase levels of cycling. These include our six cycling demonstration towns; a further 10 demonstration towns and one city which we hope to announce before the autumn; the new cycling training scheme 'Bikeability' to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads; and providing guidance to local authorities on the design of cycling infrastructure.

Bus Services

23. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects proposals for new quality contracts for bus services to be implemented. [207994]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for local transport authorities to bring forward quality contracts schemes for bus services, either under existing legislation or under the provisions as amended by the Local Transport Bill, if enacted.

Rail Services

24. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to encourage rail companies to improve the performance of connecting services. [207995]

Mr. Tom Harris: The franchise agreements with the train operators specify that they must co-operate with other operators when developing their timetables to enable passengers to make connections. Train operators make best endeavours to aid passengers with connecting services, with particular focus given to services operating infrequently and to the last train services each day.

Airport Security

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of levels of airport security; and if she will make a statement. [207975]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The measures in the National Aviation Security Programme exist to safeguard passengers from terrorism. They must be effective and proportionate to the evolving threat and minimise burdens on passengers and the industry. These measures are kept under constant review in close co-operation with the industry.

Aviation: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the noise maps for each airfield in Hampshire; and when each *(a)* was last and *(b)* will next be updated. [207498]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State for Transport publishes annual aircraft noise contour maps for the three London airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) which are designated under section 80 for the purposes of section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 for noise control purposes. These follow the standard UK practice of producing aircraft noise contours for the average summer's day (Leq 16 hour, 07.00-23.00) where 'summer' is the 92-day period from 16 June to 15 September.

The Secretary of State is not responsible for the production of noise contour maps at non-designated airports. The publication of aircraft noise contour maps is a matter for local decision. Individual airports will need to have regard to local circumstances, including requirements under planning conditions/agreements.

Under the European Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC, member states are required to produce strategic noise maps every five years for the main sources of environmental noise, including major airports with more than 50,000 movements (a movement being a take-off or landing) per year. The relevant UK airports including Southampton produced maps last year. The maps can be viewed on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website:

www.noisemapping.defra.gov.uk.

The Environmental Noise Directive requires that maps should represent annual average noise values and requires the use of four different parameters. These are Lday (07.00-19.00), Levening (19.00-23.00), Lnight (23.00-07.00), Leq 16 hour (07.00-23.00), and Lden (00.00-24.00).

Given the difference in parameters, caution should be exercised in attempting any comparison between 'traditional' UK annual summer daytime aircraft noise contour maps and aircraft contour maps produced in accordance with the Environmental Noise Directive.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has issued guidance to staff in her Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if she will make a statement. [208180]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies are very conscious of the need to reduce power, thereby contributing to a common target to reduce carbon emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, and 30 per cent. by 2020-21.

All have policies of shutting down computers when not in use, and at night. Staff are regularly instructed and reminded to do so through training, circulars, general guidance and night security checks. In addition, DfT (Central) has implemented a policy of automatic shutdown of computers at 7 pm every Friday evening.

Departmental procurement policy also states that preference should be given to energy-efficient IT equipment when new purchases are made.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to respond to the letter from Lesley Welch, Newport Pagnell Town Clerk, dated 15 May 2008. [208206]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has no record of receiving this letter.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is her Department's policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment she has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207920]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 640W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207475]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is currently in the process of conducting performance management reviews and allocating any applicable bonuses. This process is likely to come to a conclusion in late July 2008.

Shipping: Aircraft

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of introducing Mode S transponders across the UK aircraft fleet, with particular reference to any effect on air sports; and if she will make a statement. [207404]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Mode S transponders are the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) approved replacement for Mode A and Mode C transponders which use outdated technology. On 31 May 2008 the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) concluded their consultation on phase 2 of their proposals to extend the use of Mode S transponders. This is part of the CAA's phased approach to improving the technical interoperability of aircraft in UK airspace They will consider carefully all the responses they have received before making a decision.

Phase 1, which came into force on 31 March 2008, required the use of Mode S for existing transponders. All aircraft that were required to carry Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) Mode A and C transponders had to be upgraded to Mode S capability. A transition period of four years will be provided during which time upgrades of existing transponders can be completed. All new installations of SSR equipment and all new aircraft brought into service with an SSR transponder already installed will now need to be Mode S compliant.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much was contributed to the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in each year since 2002; [207697]

(2) how much was spent on projects under the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in each year since 2002. [207698]

Jonathan Shaw: Total expenditure on the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in England is shown in the following table.

	Expenditure (£ million)
2002-03	17.9
2003-04	19.2
2004-05	19.5
2005-06	25.4
2006-07	19.6
2007-08	19.7

The amount spent on projects each year will be slightly less than this as the above figures include the expenditure of our delivery partners in administering the funding, which can be up to 7 per cent. of the total funding they receive.

Aggregates: Carbon Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from the aggregates industry in each year since 1997. [207699]

Jonathan Shaw: The Quarry Products Association estimate that emissions from the quarry products industry are 800,000 tonnes of carbon per year. This includes aggregates, asphalt, ready mixed concrete, lime and mortar, but excludes delivery transport.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the common agricultural policy prior to the 13 May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [207220]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* It is long established practice under successive Governments that information relating to discussions between Ministers is not normally disclosed. The Government's position on the common agricultural policy was set out in the joint DEFRA/Treasury vision paper published in December 2005.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1121-2W, on animal welfare, what progress has been made on drafting a protocol to take into account the views of religious communities when enforcing the requirements of animal health and welfare legislation. [207435]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* A draft protocol to underpin the handling of animal welfare cases in co-operation with the Hindu community has been prepared. This is currently being considered by members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness at Bhaktivedanta Manor. The draft protocol sets out the way in which the beliefs of the Hindu community will be taken into account when enforcing animal welfare legislation and will apply to cattle in the care of the Hindu community at temples and similarly designated sacred sites. The protocol is intended to ensure that everyone involved understands how animal welfare legislation will be enforced in the future.

The draft will be reviewed in the light of the comments received and will then be sent to the organisations involved in the enforcement of the welfare provisions in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the wider Hindu community, for comment.

Asbestos: Alnwick

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to locate missing records of asbestos treatment carried out in the 1990s at his Department's offices in Alnwick, Northumberland; where these records would normally have been kept; and if he will make a statement. [205913]

Jonathan Shaw: The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, now DEFRA, assumed responsibility for this site in 1992-93. It was transferred from the Property Services Agency (PSA) which now no longer exists. Anecdotal evidence implies that PSA commissioned asbestos removal works in 1988 but no records were handed over at the point of transfer to MAFF and no files were kept at that time on site.

For clarification no asbestos treatment work was undertaken during 1990s and therefore there are no records.

In 2004 DEFRA undertook Asbestos Type III surveys across the estate, and results from Alnwick revealed small particles of asbestos in the ceiling void. Air tests were immediately conducted and have continued since that time. Test result records have been maintained since 2004.

Bees: Research

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated by his Department to bee health research in each year since 1997. [207788]

Jonathan Shaw: The following list shows the funding allocated by DEFRA for honey bee health research. This includes funding for specific honey bee health projects and elements of other funded research which benefits honey bee health.

	£000
1997-98	214.5
1998-99	247.6
1999-2000	241.1
2000-01	230.0
2001-02	313.7
2002-03	286.9
2003-04	273.1
2004-05	282.1
2005-06	254.4
2006-07	302.5
2007-08	321.2

Biofuels

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect on air quality of increasing use of biofuels. [207451]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department has made no specific assessment. However, the Department for Transport has commissioned and published various pieces of research into the effects of biofuels on air quality.

Cattle: Ear Tagging

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what monitoring he is undertaking of compliance with the double-ear tag requirement in relation to cattle; what representations he has received on the effectiveness of the scheme; and if he will consider the merits of returning to a system of single ear-tags. [207323]

Jonathan Shaw: The unique, lifetime, individual identification of bovine animals is an essential element of the work to control and eradicate Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). The requirement for bovines to have an officially approved tag in each ear bearing identical official identification numbers ("double-tagging") has been directly applicable Community law since 1 January 1998. Double-tagging was chosen to give surer guarantees that an animal's identity remains secure throughout its life. There are no immediate plans to alter this.

Member states are required to inspect annually 10 per cent. of the cattle holdings in their territory for compliance with bovine identification and registration rules, and to report the result to the EU Commission by 31 August. The inspections must be unannounced and cover all animals present on the holding. Holdings must be selected by risk analysis. This inspection regime has been operating since 1998. In England, Rural Payments Agency inspectors inspect around 5,000 farms each year, checking each animal's tags, cattle passport, and records. Copies of the annual report can be seen on the animal identification section of DEFRA's website. Last year, around 1.5 per cent. of the animals inspected in Britain did not fully comply with the tagging rules. This rate of compliance is good and has been consistently so since 2000.

I consider the monitoring of double-tagging to be effective. Our systems were considered sufficiently robust for the EU Commission to lift the ten-year beef and cattle export ban in 2006. I have received no representations on their effectiveness.

Coastal Areas: Archaeology

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will seek the inclusion of provisions in the forthcoming Marine Bill to protect coastal artefacts of historic importance. [207319]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government's principal legislative tools for protecting coastal artefacts of historic importance are the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, or the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, depending on the nature and whereabouts of the particular artefact. The draft Heritage Protection Bill contains provisions for a new unified legal framework for protecting such assets in future.

The draft Marine Bill will introduce a new system of marine planning, which will enable Government to communicate our policies on heritage in coastal and marine areas, and clarify the locations and obligations attached to sites of historic interest. The draft Marine Bill will make clear that the duty of licensing authorities to have regard to the need to protect the environment when they make decisions includes the protection of sites of historic or archaeological interest. Where appropriate, conditions to do this could be included in the terms of a marine licence.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average age of dairy farmers was in the UK at the most recent date for which figures are available. [207450]

Jonathan Shaw: The average (median) age of a holder on dairy farms in the UK in 2005 was 55 years.

Notes:

1. Holdings where a limited company or institution takes financial or legal responsibility for the holding, or where there is no single holder, have been excluded.

2. The median age is the middle age when the ages of all holders are put in ascending order.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203844]

Jonathan Shaw: We will publish in due course an annual list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in the Department during the course of the previous financial year.

Farms: Local Authorities

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Government have to maintain the number of tenanted or managed farms owned by local authorities. [207042]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Agriculture Act 1970, the Government have no powers to require local authorities to maintain statutory smallholdings; this decision rests entirely with individual authorities. There are currently no plans to change the legislation.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for UK fishermen of the Scottish Executive's moratorium on transfer of Scottish fixed quota allocation units and licences; and if he will make a statement. [207625]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* At this time I am unable to make a proper assessment of the implications of the moratorium on any part of the UK fishing fleet as there is still some uncertainty about exactly how in practice the Scottish Executive intend to apply it. I have expressed my profound disappointment at this unilateral action, which tears up long-standing arrangements between England and Scotland for managing fishing licences and quotas. It creates additional risk and uncertainty for fishermen at a time when they are already under enormous pressure and prevents then from carrying out their legitimate business.

Fisheries: Scotland

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with his Scottish counterpart on the decision taken by the Scottish Executive to introduce a moratorium on fisheries licence and quota transfers; when he was notified of the moratorium; and if he will make a statement; [207621]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact on the UK fishing industry of the decision by the Scottish Executive to implement a moratorium on licence and quota transfers; and if he will make a statement; [207622]

(3) if he will take steps to review the terms of the concordat with the Scottish Executive on fisheries following the decision by the Scottish Executive to implement a moratorium on licence and quota transfers; and if he will make a statement; [207623]

(4) whether he has taken legal advice on the decision taken by the Scottish Executive to implement a moratorium on fisheries licence and quota transfers; and if he will make a statement. [207624]

Jonathan Shaw: I have had no discussions with my Scottish counterpart about the moratorium and was first advised of it late on Thursday 15 May, the day before it was announced. At this time I am unable to make a proper assessment of its impact on any part of the UK fishing fleet as there is still some uncertainty about exactly how in practice the Scottish Executive intend to apply it. In the absence of that information it is impossible to make a full judgment of the legality of the moratorium but the preliminary advice that I have received is that it may be unlawful. I have expressed my profound disappointment at this unilateral action, which tears up long-standing arrangements between England and Scotland for managing fishing licences and quotas. It creates additional risk and uncertainty for fishermen at a time when they are already under enormous pressure and prevents then from carrying out their legitimate business. I am saddened that the Scottish Executive no longer feel able to work within the collaborative framework of the fisheries concordat. In our view the concordat is still valid given the continuing need for the UK Government and devolved Administrations to work together.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the *(a)* pre-construction budget and *(b)* outturn cost of each major flood defence project was since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [207914]

(2) what the *(a)* target completion date and *(b)* completion date for each major flood defence project was since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [207915]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* I regret that it is not possible to provide the information requested in the usual timescale. I shall write as soon as possible and a copy of my reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Floods

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many households are deemed to be at high risk of flooding in England and Wales; and of these *(a)* to how many households the Floodline Warnings Direct system is available and *(b)* how many are registered with it; [207515]

(2) how much the Flood Warnings Direct system cost to *(a)* develop and *(b)* install. [207601]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's 2006 National Flood Risk Assessment divides properties into three probability bands as follows:

Significant Probability (1 in 75): 517,000 properties
Moderate Probability (1 in 200): 567,000 properties
Low Probability (1 in 1,000): 1,1[illegible]1,000 properties

As of 1 August 2007, the Environment Agency reported that the Floodline Warnings Direct Service was available to 794,000 properties and, of these, 240,000 were registered.

The Environment Agency has informed me that the Floodline Warnings Direct system cost £14.2 million over four years to develop and implement. The breakdown of these costs are as follows:

	£ million
System development	4.5
Equipment and Installation	5.5
Implementation and other costs	4.2

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to increase the number of people in England and Wales at high risk of flooding to whom Floodline Warnings Direct is available; [207516]

(2) how many people at risk or high risk of flooding in England and Wales are estimated to be unaware of the risk. [207602]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA and the Environment Agency have agreed upon an annual programme of expansion, improvement and recruitment to the flood warning service. This is documented in the Environment Agency's Flood Warning Investment Strategy.

The aim of the strategy is to make the Flood Warnings available to 80 per cent. of those identified as being at risk of flooding within the Environment Agency's Flood Map, by March 2013. The Environment Agency is on course to meet this target.

Food Supply

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's strategy is for ensuring security of food supply within the UK. [207041]

Jonathan Shaw: Within the UK, domestic food security depends upon diversity of supply and strong trading links (most of the food we import comes from the EU), strong and resilient strategic infrastructure, effective risk management and contingency planning, and critically, for an energy-intensive food chain, security of energy supplies.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205043]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not have any smoking shelters on the London estate.

Supermarkets: Environment Protection

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to engage leading supermarkets in programmes to foster the environmental enhancement of local communities. [207069]

Jonathan Shaw: Food and drink packaging makes up a large proportion of the litter people drop, and the Government are working with food outlets, manufacturers and retailers to address this. "Reducing litter caused by food on the go—A Voluntary Code of Practice" launched in October 2004, is one example. Fast food operators, shops and supermarkets are encouraged to sign up to this "Code of Practice", which then commits them to work in partnership with the council to improve their local environment, for instance by providing additional bins, staffing regular litter sweeps around their outlets, conducting research into waste minimisation and promoting the anti-litter message to their customers.

Waste Management: Contracts

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which companies are contracted by local authorities for municipal waste management services, broken down by local authority. [207964]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not hold this information.

Whales: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his Cabinet colleagues on whaling since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [207248]

Jonathan Shaw: I discuss whaling with my colleagues in other Government Departments on a regular basis. UK Government policy on whaling—in particular our strong support for the maintenance of the moratorium on commercial whaling—is supported by all Government Departments.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives from *(a)* the Japanese Government, *(b)* the Norwegian Government and *(c)* the Icelandic Government on whaling since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [207249]

Jonathan Shaw: On 8 January, I called in the deputy ambassador from the Japanese embassy in London to express the UK's outrage and urge Japan to end its slaughter of whales.

The deputy ambassador was left in no doubt of the strength of feeling in this country and that the UK is outraged by Japan's whaling activities and considers Japan's lethal research wholly unnecessary.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Iceland on 24 April and reiterated the UK's strong opposition to whaling. The Icelandic Prime Minister was left in no doubt as to the strength of feeling in the UK on the issue.

There have been no discussions on whaling since January between DEFRA Ministers and Norwegian representatives. However please be assured that DEFRA Ministers and FCO posts will raise the issue of whaling with these countries' representatives whenever it is appropriate to do so.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives from Romania on their recent membership of the International Whaling Commission; whether he expects them to support the international moratorium on whaling; and if he will make a statement. [207250]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) has written to the Romanian Government welcoming their decision to join the International Whaling Commission (IWC). In discussions at official level in Brussels, Romania agreed that the EU line at the forthcoming annual meeting of the IWC should be to support the maintenance of the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling. I am therefore in no doubt that Romania will take a pro-conservation stance at that meeting.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects there to be an attempt to overturn the international moratorium on commercial whaling at the forthcoming International Whaling Commission meeting; and if he will make a statement. [207251]

Jonathan Shaw: I think it unlikely that there will be any formal proposal put to the 60th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) specifically seeking the removal of that paragraph in the schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling which provides for the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling. However, there will be discussion on whether, and if so how, Japan's desire for a quota of minke whales for coastal communities in Japan can or should be accommodated; these discussions are not likely to be concluded at this meeting.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will be able to name the countries that are *(a)* members of the International Whaling Commission and *(b)* not members of the International Whaling Commission to which the Government have (i) sent the Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility document and (ii) written about whaling since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [207253]

Jonathan Shaw: For reasons given in my reply of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1296W, and of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1874W, I do not think it appropriate to provide the information sought by the hon. Member.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to attend the 60th meeting of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [207254]

Jonathan Shaw: I plan to attend the next annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to be held in Santiago, Chile in June 2008. If conflicting priorities make this impossible it is planned one of my fellow DEFRA Ministers will represent the UK in Santiago.

The UK will, both at the 60th meeting and beyond, continue to support the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling and oppose all forms of whaling, other than limited whaling operations by indigenous people for subsistence purposes.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he expects new members to join the International Whaling Commission in time to be able to vote at the forthcoming International Whaling Commission meeting; and if he will make a statement; [207255]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of International Whaling Commission members likely to *(a)* support the international moratorium on commercial whaling and *(b)* oppose the international moratorium on commercial whaling should a vote be called on the matter at the 60th meeting of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement; [207256]

(3) when he next plans to discuss whaling with *(a)* his Cabinet colleagues and *(b)* representatives from foreign Governments that (i) are and (ii) are not members of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement; [207257]

(4) when he last discussed whaling with his foreign counterparts; whether he has directly lobbied any countries to join the International Whaling Commission and support the international moratorium on commercial whaling; and if he will make a statement. [207247]

Jonathan Shaw: Partly as a consequence of UK lobbying effort, two new countries (Uruguay and Romania), have joined the International Whaling Commission (IWC) since last year, and Nicaragua's voting rights have been re-instated so that Nicaragua can now vote on the anti-whaling side. We do not know which countries, if any, may have been recruited to the pro-whaling side; the final voting numbers will be unknown until the plenary session opens on 23 June. We would nonetheless expect to have a clear majority of countries present and voting at this year's annual meeting of the IWC ready to support the maintenance of the moratorium on commercial whaling, should its future be put to a vote. In the unlikely event that the pro-whaling countries hold the simple majority, they are unlikely to be able to end the moratorium, a vote on which requires a three-quarter majority.

Cabinet Members, along with all hon. Members, will shortly receive a 'Dear Colleague' letter which provides a full report of HMG's aims for the forthcoming annual International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting, making clear that the UK remains vigorously opposed to whaling and detailing our position on issues such as the importance of welfare considerations and whale watching.

I discussed whaling with the hon. Peter Garrett MP, Australian Minister for the Environment on 25 April. Among other issues, we discussed the meeting I had with the Japanese deputy ambassador on 8 January to express the UK's outrage over Japan's 'scientific' whaling activities.

White Fish: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of bass stocks in *(a)* the Tamar, *(b)* the Solent, *(c)* the Thames and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1977; and if he will make a statement; [207590]

(2) if he will make a statement on the spawning stocks for bass in the UK. [207595]

Jonathan Shaw: Bass are highly mobile and migratory fish and the exact identity of stocks is not well understood. Around the UK bass stocks are generally assessed in four units, namely the North sea, the eastern English channel, the western English channel and the UK west coast and not in terms of specific estuaries. However pre-recruit surveys (i.e. surveys of juvenile fish before they recruit to the fishery) have been carried out in the Tamar, Solent and Thames.

(i) Pre-recruit surveys available for the Tamar since 1984 suggest that year-classes in the mid 1980s were weak, while through the 1990s there were some strong year-classes and some weak year-classes. The 2002 year-class appeared strong in this area, and 2004 was above average as age 0 fish, but since then the indices in this area are low.

(ii) Pre-recruit indices in the Solent are available since 1977 and show a similar pattern of weak year-classes in the mid 1980s, several strong year-classes interspersed with weaker ones through the 1990s and a decline to more average levels since 2000.

(iii) Pre-recruit indices in the Thames estuary are only available since the mid 1990s. They indicate relatively strong year-classes in 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003. Provisional estimates for 2006 and 2007 suggest these year-classes may also be strong.

(iv) Bass stocks around the UK were analytically assessed by ICES in 2004 and more recently by CEFAS. They indicated that spawning stock biomass had increased substantially following a number of strong recruitments in the 1990s, and that biomass levels in all areas were currently close to the series maxima (on the basis of data from 1985 onwards).

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he plans to introduce measures to conserve bass stocks for anglers; and if he will make a statement; [207591]

(2) what his policy is on the designation of bass as a wholly recreational stock; and if he will make a statement. [207592]

Jonathan Shaw: There are a number of measures in place to conserve bass stocks for all those with an interest in the stock. These include a minimum landing size of 36 cm, a prohibition on the use of enmeshing nets with a mesh size of between 65 and 89 mm, and a ban on fishing from boats for bass in 37 areas around the coast of England and Wales where undersized fish are particularly vulnerable to capture, known as bass nursery areas.

Bass is a particularly important stock for the inshore fishing fleet. Given the current pressures faced by this fleet and the relatively healthy state of the stock at present, I could not justify designating bass as a wholly recreational stock. However, I have announced a package of new measures that will provide benefits for stocks of bass and more widely for anglers. This includes a review of bass nursery areas and inshore netting restrictions and for consultation on the designation and design of new areas. We are also funding research exploring the use of restricted areas to benefit recreational anglers.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the total bass biomass in UK waters in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [207593]

Jonathan Shaw: Bass stocks around the UK were last assessed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in 2004 and more recently by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) in 2006 and 2008. The latest assessments suggest that since 1997 the biomass of bass in UK waters has continued to increase in all areas.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what bass sampling his Department undertakes; and if he will make a statement. [207594]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine and Fisheries Agency samples commercial landings of bass in accordance with the European Commission data collection regulation. Samples of scales and length information are processed by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) to provide information on population length and age structure. In recent years, CEFAS has processed around 2,000 scale samples and 4,000 length measurements per year.

CEFAS also carries out pre-recruit surveys (i.e. surveys of juvenile fish before they recruit to the fishery) in the Thames and Solent and commissions a pre-recruit survey in the Tamar. As part of a new R and D programme, CEFAS will also be investigating the utility of data from power station intake screens to provide new recruitment indices.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airports: Security

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 738W, on airports: security, what records are kept of passengers arrested while attempting to pass through UK airport security; how many passengers were arrested in the last 12 months; and how many of those have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of an offence. [204195]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally. The police use their powers at an airport in the same way as at any other location as appropriate. Information held by the Ministry of Justice on the number of arrests is based on aggregated data reported by the 43 police forces in England and Wales. Data are collected centrally by main offence group such as violence against the person, sexual offences, drugs offences, etc. It is not possible to determine from these data the circumstances or location of an arrest, such as an airport.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cautions were issued for public drinking offences in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [201497]

Mr. Coaker: The number of cautions issued in Suffolk for public drinking offences can be found in the following table. Additionally, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) were rolled out to all police forces in 2004. The data shows that in 2004, 302 persons received a PND for public drinking offences in Suffolk. In 2005 the figure was 404, and in 2006 the figure was 376.

Number of offenders cautioned for public drinking offences in Suffolk police force area, 2002 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Cautioned
2002	268
2003	240
2004[4]	188
2005	81
2006	70

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The data above include the following offences and statutes;

Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872 sec 12.

Alcohol consumption in designated public places—Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 sec 12.

Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967 sec.91.

[4] The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) scheme was rolled out to all police forces in 2004. Three offences in the scheme relate to "public drinking".

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effect on crime levels of binge drinking. [206018]

Mr. Coaker: The Government take the issue of crime committed by individuals when drunk, or through binge drinking, very seriously. The Government are aware that drinking among young people under the age of 18 is associated with criminal and disorderly behaviour. Nearly half of all 10 to 17-year-olds who drink once a week or more, admitted to some sort of criminal or disorderly behaviour. Of young people aged 18 to 24, those who binge drink were far more likely to admit to committing criminal or disorderly behaviour during or after drinking.

The Government have taken a number of actions in order to combat this issue, including introducing the Tackling Violent Crime Programme (TVCP) which was launched in November 2004. Additionally, local areas are now required to address alcohol-related issues within their crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRP) strategies. The Government have produced guidance to assist local areas in producing their strategies, and the Government offices for the regions are co-ordinating this requirement within their specific region. The Government have also recently published "A practical guide for dealing with alcohol related problems" which is aimed at local alcohol practitioners and gives advice about the tools and powers available to tackle alcohol-related crime.

The Government are working to improve the way alcohol-related offenders are dealt with in custody and in the community. The National Offender Management Service is taking this work forward which includes; the publication of an alcohol pack for offenders under probation supervision, disseminating across the national probation service learning points from alcohol best practice projects, as well as work to develop two alcohol treatment programmes for prisons.

Additionally, the Government have funded four alcohol arrest referral pilots. These schemes aim to offer custody-based interventions from a trained worker in order to reduce reoffending. These pilots will be rolled out to 10 new areas, which will ensure that the under 18s will also benefit from these interventions.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what records she holds on levels of binge drinking by *(a)* men and *(b)* women over the last 10 years, broken down by age groups. [206765]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not routinely collect records on levels of binge drinking by age and gender although a number of ad hoc studies have been published over the past decade. These are as listed.

It is also worth noting that there is no universally agreed definition of binge drinking, but the term has generally been used to describe a pattern of drinking that involves drinking alcohol to excess over a short period of time.

Underage drinking: findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey Matthews et al (2006) Home Office Findings 277). The report can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/r277.pdf

Findings from the 2003 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey: alcohol related crime and disorder. Matthews, S. and Richardson, A. (2005) Home Office Findings 261). The report can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/r261.pdf

Alcohol, Crime and disorder: a study of young adults. Richardson, A. and Budd, T. (2003) Home Office Research Study 263). The report can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors263.pdf

Drunk and disorderly: a qualitative study of binge drinking among 18 to 24-year-olds, Engineer et al, (2003) Home Office research Study 262. The report can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors262.pdf

The impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder: an evaluation. The report can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/horr04c.pdf

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [192900]

Mr. Coaker: Information held on the court proceedings and PND databases cannot be broken down by constituency area, therefore information has been provided by police force area.

The number of persons issued with a caution, penalty notice for disorder, or proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in Humberside, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, and West Yorkshire police force areas for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in tables 1 and 2 as follows.

Number of persons issued with a caution, or proceeded against at magistrates courts for certain alcohol offences in the Humberside, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire police force areas for the years 2002 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Proceeded against					*Cautions[5]*				
Force	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[3]*	*2006[3]*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[3]*	*2006[3]*
Humberside	0	0	11	2	6	0	1	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	7	22	3	41	0	0	0	1	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	5	18	10	0	38	35	25	8
West Yorkshire	14	1	21	15	17	0	0	0	1	0

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to,
knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell,
intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1).
Sale of alcohol to a person Under 18,
Licensing Act 2003 S.146(1).
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18,
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17.
Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18,
Licensing Act 2003 Sec 147(1) and (5).

[3] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings.
Reprimands and final warnings are included in the above data.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence sale of alcohol to person under 18 in the Humberside, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire police force areas for the years 2004 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Sale of alcohol to person under 18		
Force	*2004*	*2005[4]*	*2006[4]*
Humberside	2	45	48
North Yorkshire	0	0	11
South Yorkshire	2	107	158
West Yorkshire	4	72	105

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statute:
Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18.
s.146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] New legislative reference with effect from, 24 November 2005 on implementation of Licensing Act 2003

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retailers were prosecuted in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales for the illegal sale of alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in each year since 1997. [195326]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the court proceedings database cannot be broken down by constituency or district level, therefore information has been provided by police force area.

The number of defendants proceeded against in Northumbria police force area, the North East Region, and England and Wales for the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years from 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Number of defendants proceeded against in magistrates courts for the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years in Northumbria police force area, the North East Region, and England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against									
Force/region/area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Northumbria	34	92	41	17	17	8	38	51	79	41
North East	34	94	41	18	18	9	42	63	95	52
England and Wales	215	311	205	132	158	170	616	861	1,084	1,199

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Holder of occasional permission or agent knowingly selling intoxicating liquor to person under 18
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.4(1)(a), Licensing Act S.169A and 169B, as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18
Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17.
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18
Licensing Act 2003 S.146(1)
Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18
Licensing Act 2003 S.147(1) and (5).

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a 9 per cent. sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust at a detailed level and are not included in the England and Wales figures.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Cambridgeshire were (i) cautioned and (ii) fined for selling alcohol to underage persons in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [192386]

Mr. Coaker: Information held on the court proceedings and PND databases cannot be broken down by constituency, the information has been provided for police force area.

There were no persons issued with a caution for the offence of selling alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years in Cambridgeshire police force area for the years 2001 to 2006.

The number of persons fined at all courts for the offence of selling alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years in Cambridgeshire police force area for the years 2001 to 2006 can be viewed in table 1.

In addition to court fines, police can issue an 'on the spot fine' or a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for the offence of selling alcohol to persons under the age of 18. The number of persons issued with PND for the offence in Cambridgeshire police force area for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in table2. The PND scheme was rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales in 2004.

Number of persons fined at all courts for offences relating to certain alcohol offences in the Cambridgeshire police force area for the years 2001 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Fines
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	1
2005	7
2006	18

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:

14203—Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises. Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec. 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 169(1).

14379—Sale of alcohol to a person Under 18 Licensing Act 2003 S.146(1).

14352—Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 181A(l) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec. 17.

14380—Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18. Licensing Act 2003 Sec 147(1) & (5).

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Note:

The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice Our Ref: IOS 159-08 (Table 1).

Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence Sale of alcohol to person under 18 in the Cambridgeshire police force area for the years 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Sale of alcohol to person under 18
2004	0
2005	11
2006	14

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statute:

Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18. s.146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003.

[3] New legislative reference with effect from 24 November 2005 on implementation of Licensing Act 2003.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice. Our Ref: IOS 159-08 (Table 2)

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shop keepers in North Kent have received fixed penalty notices for selling alcohol to under 18-year-olds in each of the last five years. [191414]

Mr. Coaker: The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for the offence of selling alcohol to an under 18-year-old in the Kent Police Force area has been provided in the following table. Those PNDs which were issued in the North Kent area cannot be identified as data are not collected to this level of detail.

Number of Persons issued with a Penalty Notice for Disorder for the offence of selling alcohol to a person under the age of 18 years in Kent police force area, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18
2004[4]	—
2005	10
2006	5

[1] PND data are a count of all penalty notices for disorder issued during the year.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18 5.146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003

[4] November to December.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by CJEA - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice.

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers were removed in each month since 1 January 2005; what the monthly predicted number of unfounded asylum applications was for each such month; in how many months the Government met their tipping point policy since the policy was introduced; and if she will make a statement on the future of the tipping point target. [206271]

Mr. Byrne: Monthly removals figures can be found in the quarterly statistics publications at the following address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Levels of predicted unfounded asylum applications and whether the tipping point target has been met for 2004, 2005 and 2006 can be found on the UK Border Agency website at the following address:

http://ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/publicperformancetarget/

Monthly information for the tipping point target was not available prior to January 2006.

The 2007 data are not yet available.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition: Ports

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 275W, on ports: automatic number plate recognition, whether there are any automatic number plate recognition systems in use at British ports; and whether any are configured to read foreign number plates. [206608]

Mr. Coaker: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given to him on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 743W.

On the latter point, automatic number plate recognition is a well-established technology that allows vehicles observed by camera to have their registration mark 'read' using pattern recognition software. This technology has the ability to recognise the majority of foreign vehicle number plates. However, it is not possible to specify all the number plates that can or cannot be read as some countries' number plates contain unrecognisable characters.

Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded per 1,000 population in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 1997, broken down by type of offence. [200478]

Mr. Coaker: Data on rates per 1,000 population for each offence group and for each police force area are available from 2001-02 and are given in the tables placed in the House Library.

As a result of the findings of two independent reviews of crime statistics in 2006, a number of changes have been made to the classifications of offences. Therefore all of the offence categories shown in the tables are based on the new classifications. Providing data for earlier years, where the requested data are not held on electronic databases, would entail disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204716]

Mr. Byrne: The 2007-08 employment monitoring report is not due to be published until autumn of this year. The status of the Home Office in respect of the Cabinet Office diversity targets, as set out in '10 Point Plan on creating a diverse civil service', is shown in the following table. This is taken from information collected by the Office for National Statistics as at April 2007.

Proportion of staff in diversity categories

		Percentage
SCS	Home Office	Whitehall 2008 PSA target
Women	31.80	37
Women in top management posts	35.30	30
Minority Ethnic	3.90	4
Disabled	2.00	3.20

Note:
The percentages shown in relation to ethnicity and disability are given as a percentage of the 'known' data in relation to Home Office HQ staff as at 31 March 2007; this excludes the high level of 'unknowns'.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by her Department and its agencies; and how much revenue her Department and its agencies generated through the use of non-geographic telephone numbers in each year in which such numbers have been in use. [180975]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* There are currently 43 non-geographic numbers being used by the Home Office and its agencies. The following table outlines these numbers and their purpose. Information about the revenue generated by each of these lines is not held centrally and as such it is not possible to answer this aspect of the question within the time and cost limits of the PQ process.

Number	Purpose	Type
0870 521 0410	Passport advice line	Phone
0870 240 8090	Passport advice line (Text Phone Service)	Minicon
0870 243 4477	Passport enquiries for High Street Partners	Phone
0870 243 1902	Passport Complaints	Phone
0845 121 0046	Authentication by Interview (ABI) Booking Line	Phone
0845 603 7788	GRO Certificate Services	Phone
0870 1251256	Siemens Business Services Query Letters	Phone
0870 909 0778	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure dispute line	Phone
0870 909 0844	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure application line	Phone
0870 909 0223	Criminal Records Bureau Welsh Language Line	Phone
0870 909 0344	Criminal Records Bureau	Minicon
0870 909 0811	Criminal Records Bureau General Inquiries	Phone
0870 909 0822	Criminal Records Bureau Registration Information Line	Phone
0870 241 4680	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Phone

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0870 241 4786	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Fax
0870 220 2000	TOGETHER (advice line for practitioners on tackling antisocial behaviour).	Phone
0870 336 9031	Contact Private Office to Jacqui Smith	Fax
0870 336 9032	Contact Private Office to Lord West	Fax
0870 336 9033	Contact Private Office to Vernon Coaker	Fax
0870 336 9034	Contact Private Office to Liam Byrne	Fax
0870 336 9035	Contact Private Office to Tony McNulty	Fax
0870 336 9036	Contact Private Office to Meg Hillier	Fax
0870 336 9048	Contact Parliamentary Team	Fax
0870 336 9045	Contact Ministers' Special Advisers	Fax
0870 336 9041	Contact Private Office Management Support Unit	Fax
0870 336 9037	Contact Permanent Secretary's Office	Fax
0845 0106677	UKBA Employers' Helpline	Phone
0845 039 8002	PROSPECTS helpline	Phone
0845 601 2298	UKBA Evidence and Enquiry line	Phone
0870 240 3781	Immigration Enquiry Bureau (enforcement and removals - recorded message only)	Phone
0845 6021739	Enquiries about asylum support applications	Phone
0870 606 7766	Immigration Enquiry Bureau	Phone
0870 241 0645	Requests for immigration application forms	Phone
0845 0105200	Nationality telephone enquiries	Phone
0870 521 0224	UKBA Work Permits Literature Order Line	Phone
0845 6000914	Asylum Support Customer Contact Centre	Phone
0870 241 6523	Enquiries about the work of the UKBA Complaints Unit and advice to callers about how to complain	Phone
0845 602 1465	UKBA MPS HOT LINE FAX LINE	Fax
0845 601 1145	National Asylum Support FAX Line	Fax
0845 601 1143	National Asylum Support FAX LINE	Fax
0845 609 0395	UKBA MP's Hotline	Phone
0845 601 1150	National Asylum Support Service/MP's HOT LINE	Phone
0845 0105555	UK Visas (pre-recorded information line)	Phone

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies; what services can be accessed by calling each of them; and what revenue was received from them in each year since 1997. [200497]

Mr. Byrne: The following table outlines the non-geographic numbers currently in use by the Home Office and its agencies and the services that can be accessed by each. Information about the revenue generated by each of these lines is not held centrally and as such it is not possible to answer this aspect of the question within the time and cost limits of the PQ process.

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0870 521 0410	Passport advice line	Phone
0870 240 8090	Passport advice line (Text Phone Service)	Minicon
0870 243 4477	Passport inquiries for High Street Partners	Phone
0870 243 1902	Passport Complaints	Phone
0845 121 0046	Authentication by Interview (ABI) Booking Line	Phone
0845 603 7788	GRO Certificate Services	Phone
0870 125 1256	Siemens Business Services Query Letters	Phone
0870 909 0778	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure dispute line	Phone
0870 909 0844	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure application line	Phone
0870 909 0223	Criminal Records Bureau Welsh Language Line	Phone
0870 909 0344	Criminal Records Bureau	Minicon
0870 909 0811	Criminal Records Bureau General Inquiries	Phone
0870 909 0822	Criminal Records Bureau Registration Information Line	Phone
0870 241 4680	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Phone
0870 241 4786	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Fax
0870 220 2000	TOGETHER (advice line for practitioners on tackling anti-social behaviour)	Phone
0870 336 9031	Contact Private Office to Jacqui Smith	Fax
0870 336 9032	Contact Private Office to Lord West	Fax
0870 336 9033	Contact Private Office to Vernon Coaker	Fax
0870 336 9034	Contact Private Office to Liam Byrne	Fax
0870 336 9035	Contact Private Office to Tony McNulty	Fax
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0870 336 9048	Contact Parliamentary Team	Fax
0870 336 9045	Contact Ministers' Special Advisers	Fax
0870 336 9041	Contact Private Office Management Support Unit	Fax
0870 336 9037	Contact Permanent Secretary's Office	Fax
0845 010 6677	UKBA Employers' Helpline	Phone
0845 039 8002	PROSPECTS helpline	Phone
0845 601 2298	UKBA Evidence and Enquiry line	Phone
0870 240 3781	Immigration Enquiry Bureau (enforcement and removals—recorded message only)	Phone
0845 602 1739	Enquiries about asylum support applications	Phone
0870 606 7766	Immigration Enquiry Bureau	Phone
0870 241 0645	Requests for immigration application forms	Phone
0845 010 5200	Nationality telephone inquiries	Phone
0870 521 0224	UKBA Work Permits Literature Order Line	Phone

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0845 600 0914	Asylum Support Customer Contact Centre	Phone
0870 241 6523	Inquiries about the work of the UKBA Complaints Unit and advice to callers about how to complain	Phone
0845 602 1465	UKBA MP's hot line fax line	Fax
0845 601 1145	National Asylum Support fax line	Fax
0845 601 1143	National Asylum Support fax line	Fax
0845 609 0395	UKBA MP's hotline	Phone
0845 601 1150	National Asylum Support Service/MP's hotline	Phone
0845 010 5555	UKvisas (pre-recorded information line)	Phone

Firearms

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* firearms, *(b)* imitation firearms and *(c)* knives were voluntarily surrendered to the police in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [206486]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not regularly collected centrally.

During the firearms amnesty held in April 2003, 43,908 firearms and more than one million rounds of ammunition were surrendered. The breakdown by force area and type of firearms is in the following tables.

A national knife amnesty was held from 24 May to 30 June 2006. The breakdown of the numbers of items handed in by police force area is shown in the table.

Firearms and ammunition handed in during the firearms amnesty 2003

			Prohibited firearms					
Police force	*Total number of guns*	*Total number of rounds of ammunition*	*Fully automatic*	*Handguns*	*Rifles*	*Section 5 shotguns*	*Other sec 5 firearms*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	1,309	45,000	2	148	1	1	0	152
Bedfordshire	298	5,552	0	48	1	6	0	55
Cambridgeshire	579	9,639	0	69	2	0	2	73
Cheshire	683	10,627	1	137	0	3	2	143
Cleveland	212	3,979	0	23	1	1	3	28
Cumbria	572	10,503	0	87	0	2	0	89
Derbyshire	732	4,715	1	69	1	7	0	78
Devon and Cornwall	2,233	38,110	1	378	20	2	35	436
Dorset	698	18,826	0	174	8	28	4	214
Durham	367	7,112	0	39	0	0	0	39
Essex	1,367	20,973	0	170	0	6	2	178
Gloucestershire	272	1,450	0	56	0	0	1	57
Greater Manchester	2,662	43,317	3	199	3	2	3	210
Hampshire	1,540	42,795	2	183	2	5	3	195
Hertfordshire	680	14,504	0	133	18	20	4	175
Humberside	622	19,802	3	72	3	5	3	86
Kent	1,287	62,142	0	217	3	12	2	234
Lancashire	1,038	15,843	0	117	12	6	3	138
Leicestershire	792	245	1	66	0	1	0	68
Lincolnshire	1,019	14,136	0	62	2	0	0	64
London, City of	14	217	0	3	0	1	1	5
Merseyside	924	15,869	0	105	0	1	1	107
Metropolitan Police	3,189	75,606	9	606	14	39	85	753
Norfolk	965	13,301	0	106	0	2	1	109
Northampton	523	12,798	0	63	0	4	3	70
Northumbria	969	16,775	0	94	2	8	1	105
North Yorkshire	617	6,557	0	74	0	2	3	79
Nottingham	908	34,712	1	82	1	1	0	85
South Yorkshire	407	4,567	1	74	3	1	3	82
Staffordshire	823	49,271	2	99	3	7	3	114
Suffolk	1,219	23,801	2	141	0	6	4	153
Surrey	1,157	31,806	6	174	0	5	15	200
Sussex	1,997	32,702	0	273	1	6	6	286
Thames Valley	1,189	23,877	1	241	11	38	5	296
Warwickshire	453	8,563	1	50	4	0	2	57
West Mercia	1,029	28,072	20	101	0	2	9	132
West Midlands	1,265	53,190	1	168	6	1	3	179
West Yorkshire	635	11,493	1	128	0	5	0	134
Wiltshire	574	7,516	1	39	1	0	0	41
Total England	37,819	839,963	60	5,068	123	236	212	5,699
Dyfed-Powys	847	23,526	2	101	9	9	9	130

Firearms and ammunition handed in during the firearms amnesty 2003

Police force	*Total number of guns*	*Total number of rounds of ammunition*	*Prohibited firearms*					
			Fully automatic	*Handguns*	*Rifles*	*Section 5 shotguns*	*Other sec 5 firearms*	*Total*
Gwent	332	12,584	1	35	8	46	1	91
North Wales	592	5,073	1	69	0	1	0	71
South Wales	917	14,128	2	199	12	44	1	258
Total Wales	2,688	55,311	6	404	29	100	11	550
Total England and Wales	40,507	895,274	66	5,472	152	336	223	6,249
Central Scotland	175	1,710	0	7	0	0	0	7
Dumfries and Galloway	220	71,910	0	14	0	0	0	14
Fife	343	6,478	1	28	0	4	0	33
Grampian	540	12,529	0	8	0	0	0	8
Lothian and Borders	509	11,775	1	54	0	1	0	56
Northern	392	13,796	0	42	0	0	1	43
Strathclyde	786	19,635	1	87	3	2	2	95
Tayside	428	6,083	0	22	0	1	0	23
Total Scotland	3,393	143,916	3	262	3	8	3	279
British Transport Police	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOD Police	6	168	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total Other	8	168	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total Great Britain	43,908	1,039,358	69	5,734	155	344	227	6,529

Police force	*Total number of guns*	*Total number of rounds of ammunition*	*Non-prohibited guns*					
			Rifles	*Imitations*	*Air guns*	*Shot guns*	*Other*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	1,309	45,000	80	207	501	363	6	1,157
Bedfordshire	298	5,552	14	56	98	63	12	243
Cambridgeshire	579	9,639	45	145	134	177	5	506
Cheshire	683	10,627	18	118	250	128	26	540
Cleveland	212	3,979	5	40	109	30	0	184
Cumbria	572	10,503	46	86	191	154	6	483
Derbyshire	732	4,715	27	184	234	189	20	654
Devon and Cornwall	2,233	38,110	103	526	654	483	31	1,797
Dorset	698	18,826	28	50	233	125	48	484
Durham	367	7,112	16	32	193	86	1	328
Essex	1,367	20,973	102	264	400	407	16	1,189
Gloucestershire	272	1,450	10	34	73	97	1	215
Greater Manchester	2,662	43,317	81	1,503	569	264	35	2,452
Hampshire	1,540	42,795	71	380	471	383	40	1,345
Hertfordshire	680	14,504	21	113	201	151	19	505
Humberside	622	19,802	38	115	241	132	10	536
Kent	1,287	62,142	61	250	379	346	17	1,053
Lancashire	1,038	15,843	85	222	316	259	18	900
Leicestershire	792	245	35	153	277	237	22	724
Lincolnshire	1,019	14,136	40	100	341	340	134	955
London, City of	14	217	0	3	2	4	0	9
Merseyside	924	15,869	27	252	421	100	17	817
Metropolitan Police	3,189	75,606	206	776	962	312	180	2,436
Norfolk	965	13,301	49	153	221	418	15	856
Northampton	523	12,798	17	128	144	160	4	453
Northumbria	969	16,775	34	147	541	118	24	864
North Yorkshire	617	6,557	30	119	168	206	15	538
Nottingham	908	34,712	45	236	345	190	7	823
South Yorkshire	407	4,567	18	89	105	92	21	325
Staffordshire	823	49,271	32	221	264	191	1	709
Suffolk	1,219	23,801	49	259	294	454	10	1,066
Surrey	1,157	31,806	60	267	365	239	26	957
Sussex	1,997	32,702	76	445	675	495	20	1,711

			Non-prohibited guns					
Police force	*Total number of guns*	*Total number of rounds of ammunition*	*Rifles*	*Imitations*	*Air guns*	*Shot guns*	*Other*	*Total*
Thames Valley	1,189	23,877	62	165	330	301	35	893
Warwickshire	453	8,563	23	90	189	83	11	396
West Mercia	1,029	28,072	53	157	282	370	35	897
West Midlands	1,265	53,190	38	412	475	145	16	1,086
West Yorkshire	635	11,493	32	124	211	97	37	501
Wiltshire	574	7,516	44	82	225	166	16	533
Total England	37,819	839,963	1,821	8,703	12,084	8,555	957	32,120
Dyfed-Powys	847	23,526	66	32	149	450	20	717
Gwent	332	12,584	13	51	90	68	19	241
North Wales	592	5,073	21	121	168	199	12	521
South Wales	917	14,128	39	112	242	253	13	659
Total Wales	2,688	55,311	139	316	649	970	64	2,138
Total England and Wales	40,507	895,274	1,960	9,019	12,733	9,525	1,021	34,258
Central Scotland	175	1,710	9	16	74	40	29	168
Dumfries and Galloway	220	71,910	9	19	82	83	13	206
Fife	343	6,478	17	53	154	63	23	310
Grampian	540	12,529	46	97	158	213	18	532
Lothian and Borders	509	11,775	43	68	204	129	9	453
Northern	392	13,796	76	17	95	151	10	349
Strathclyde	786	19,635	59	91	343	175	23	691
Tayside	428	6,083	39	99	129	132	6	405
Total Scotland	3,393	143,916	298	460	1,239	986	131	3,114
British Transport Police	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
MOD Police	6	168	1	1	0	2	1	5
Total Other	8	168	1	1	2	2	1	7
Total Great Britain	43,908	1,039,358	2,259	9,480	13,974	10,513	1,153	37,379

				Ammunition			
Police force	*Total number of guns*	*Total number of rounds of ammunition*	*Prohibited*	*Bulleted*	*Shot gun*	*Other*	*Other weapons*
Avon and Somerset	1,309	45,000	0	16,000	25,000	4,000	46
Bedfordshire	298	5,552	44	2,154	1,787	1,567	97
Cambridgeshire	579	9,639	0	6,119	2,140	1,380	28
Cheshire	683	10,627	13	7,470	1,085	2,059	30
Cleveland	212	3,979	413	1,804	297	1,465	18
Cumbria	572	10,503	6	5,387	1,224	3,886	46
Derbyshire	732	4,715	0	1,933	2,122	660	0
Devon and Cornwall	2,233	38,110	2,666	14,473	4,401	16,570	81
Dorset	698	18,826	1,362	5,027	3,848	8,589	48
Durham	367	7,112	123	5,427	842	720	187
Essex	1,367	20,973	7	6,713	3,550	10,703	106
Gloucestershire	272	1,450	0	500	850	100	3
Greater Manchester	2,662	43,317	402	19,853	6,498	16,564	54
Hampshire	1,540	42,795	2,200	19,195	7,967	13,433	507
Hertfordshire	680	14,504	1,705	7,553	1,770	3,476	110
Humberside	622	19,802	542	9,506	1,848	7,906	121
Kent	1,287	62,142	249	14,232	4,738	42,923	105
Lancashire	1,038	15,843	34	9,786	2,738	3,285	85
Leicestershire	792	245	1	102	67	75	59
Lincolnshire	1,019	14,136	18	11,357	1,904	857	1,027
London, City of	14	217	0	20	28	169	0
Merseyside	924	15,869	4	6,341	1,583	7,941	130
Metropolitan Police	3,189	75,606	6,571	25,097	10,745	33,193	680
Norfolk	965	13,301	2	10,713	2,345	241	45

			Ammunition				
Police force	*Total number of guns*	*Total number of rounds of ammunition*	*Prohibited*	*Bulleted*	*Shot gun*	*Other*	*Other weapons*
Northampton	523	12,798	2	7,257	3,987	1,552	279
Northumbria	969	16,775	4	10,227	2,267	4,277	105
North Yorkshire	617	6,557	1.209	3,849	1,251	248	18
Nottingham	908	34,712	1,084	8,861	3,753	21,014	0
South Yorkshire.	407	4,567	0	2,616	929	1,022	56
Staffordshire	823	49,271	35	17,918	4,956	26,362	50
Suffolk	1,219	23,801	1.145	10,857	3,122	8,677	101
Surrey	1,157	31,806	1	19,173	8,034	4,598	1,560
Sussex	1,997	32,702	0	22,564	7,172	2,966	33
Thames Valley	1,189	23,877	2,041	8,393	3,122	10,321	135
Warwickshire	453	8,563	609	3,706	862	3,386	22
West Mercia	1,029	28,072	300	15,558	4,655	7,559	166
West Midlands	1,265	53,190	735	40,158	4,452	7,845	50
West Yorkshire	635	11,493	0	7,532	581	3,380	22
Wiltshire	574	7,516	62	3,433	1,615	2,406	16
Total England	37,819	839,963	23,589	388,864	140,135	287,375	6,226
Dyfed-Powys	847	23,526	1,941	11,103	6,088	4,394	35
Gwent	332	12,584	9	4,347	5,705	2,523	18
North Wales	592	5,073	0	3,731	1,018	324	41
South Wales	917	14,128	280	5,246	4,148	4,454	89
Total Wales	2,688	55,311	2,230	24,427	16,959	11,695	183
Total England and Wales	40,507	895,274	25,819	413,291	157,094	299,070	6,409
Central Scotland	175	1,710	79	955	638	38	87
Dumfries and Galloway	220	71,910	0	2,379	1,017	68,514	114
Fife	343	6,478	1,004	3,586	1,075	813	94
Grampian	540	12,529	91	10,267	1,261	910	128
Lothian and Borders	509	11,775	0	9.238	1,514	1,023	41
Northern	392	13,796	4,786	5,699	3,197	114	75
Strathclyde	786	19,635	1,233	8,307	3,200	6,895	29
Tayside	428	6,083	34	3,150	2,156	743	116
Total Scotland	3,393	143,916	7,227	43,581	14,058	79,050	684
British Transport Police	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOD Police	6	168	0	155	0	13	0
Total Other	8	168	0	155	0	13	0
Total Great Britain	43,908	1,039,358	33,046	457,027	171,152	378,133	7,093

Knife amnesty—total items surrendered 24 May to 30 June 2006

Force	*Domestic*	*Non Domestic*	*Weapons*	*Of interest*	*Total*
Avon Somerset	1,510	634	129	69	2,342
Bedfordshire	503	172	45	42	762
Cambridgshire	982	188	465	0	1,635
Cheshire	1,241	457	287	55	2,040
City of London	38	0	4	18	60
Cleveland	729	224	159	41	1,153
Cumbria	1,082	146	46	27	1,301
Derbyshire	2,257	91	623	24	2,995
Dorset	1,029	275	186	8	1,498
Durham	593	326	124	19	1,062
Dyfed Powys	470	188	121	14	793
Devon Cornwall	2,626	601	375	150	3,752
Essex	1,517	446	209	51	2,223
Gloucestershire	702	309	50	0	1,061
GMP	1,172	403	276	14	1,865
Gwent	1,263	419	187	67	1,936
Hampshire	3,209	841	529	57	4,636

Knife amnesty—total items surrendered 24 May to 30 June 2006

Force	*Domestic*	*Non Domestic*	*Weapons*	*Of interest*	*Total*
Herts	1,659	493	20	22	2,194
Humberside	877	152	261	23	1,313
Kent	2,603	704	421	0	3,807
Lancashire	948	389	187	1	1,525
Leicestershire	950	158	62	0	1,170
Lincs	731	422	260	35	1,448
Merseyside	1,142	630	33	0	1,888
Met	0	0	0	0	9,145
Norfolk[1]	(383)	(104)	(18)	(5)	1,723
North Wales	1,152	392	177	10	1,731
North Yorkshire	940	285	346	53	1,624
North Hants	1,312	174	140	0	1,626
Northumbria	1,576	667	306	57	2,606
Nottinghamshire	1,086	419	127	17	1,649
South Wales	1,351	505	143	23	2,022
South Yorks	1,143	68	379	42	1,631
Staffordshire	1,200	524	222	64	2,010
Suffolk	975	298	171	0	1,444
Surrey	959	252	89	11	1,311
Sussex	2,479	936	253	89	3,757
Thames Valley	2,475	1,235	620	0	4,330
Warwickshire	494	179	147	36	856
West Mercia	1,523	440	164	0	2,127
West Midlands	1,979	298	510	451	3,238
West Yorkshire	851	332	175	17	1,375
Wiltshire	894	177	120	9	1,200
Total[2]	52,222	16,595	9,148	1,658	89,864

[1] Breakdown figures for Norfolk relate to items surrendered in first week only.
[2] Breakdown figures do not equal final total due to [1].
Note:
MRS has supplied a total only figure.

Foreign Workers: Graduates

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many participants of each nationality in the international graduate scheme have been permitted to switch to *(a)* work permit employment, *(b)* the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme, *(c)* the business person category and *(d)* the innovators category. [206450]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place at St. Pancras station to intercept human traffickers and their victims; and how many traffickers and victims have been apprehended since the Eurostar service to that station started. [207579]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* On 14 November 2007 Eurostar's London terminus moved from Waterloo to St. Pancras and the decision was made to examine arriving passengers at our juxtaposed controls in France and Belgium.

Juxtaposed UK border controls have been in place at Paris, Lille and Calais Frethun since June 2001 and at Brussels since October 2004. They are staffed by UK Border Agency staff. If a passenger has qualified for entry to the UK at one of the juxtaposed controls, but has aroused suspicion for other reasons, they may be referred to the appropriate UK agency and can be intercepted by British Transport Police at St. Pancras.

Between December 2007 and May 2008, UKBA staff at the juxtaposed Eurostar ports have referred 25 cases to the European Operations' Intelligence Team for further investigation.

UKBA staff at juxtaposed ports work closely with the UK, French and Belgium police to ensure that we do the maximum possible to disrupt human trafficking and to provide appropriate support to the victims, ensuring they are properly cared for.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 72W, on human trafficking: children, if she will place in the Library a copy of the recent Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre study on Vietnamese juveniles. [207578]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre study into Vietnamese juveniles arrested in cannabis factories in 2007 has not yet been published. When it is published, a copy will be placed in the Library.

Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will make it her policy to use gross domestic product per capita as the principal measurement when considering the economic effects of migration in developing policy; [206841]

(2) if she will commission or evaluate research on the effect of immigration on the gross domestic product per capita of the resident host population in the UK; [206842]

(3) pursuant to the oral evidence given by the Minister of State for Immigration to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Select Committee in its inquiry into the Economic Impact of Immigration, if she will commission quantitative research into the effect of immigration on gross domestic product per capita. [206849]

Mr. Byrne: The issue of the links between migration and GDP and GDP per head was raised by the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs in its report, The Economic Impact of Immigration (Session 2007-08 HL Paper 82). The Government are considering the recommendations made by the Committee and will provide a formal response shortly. I shall arrange for copies of the response to be placed in the Library of both Houses and for a copy to be sent to the hon. Gentleman.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy immigration cases *(a)* were solved, *(b)* were closed for administrative or other reasons, *(c)* were no longer being actively investigated or worked on, *(d)* were resolved resulting in a deportation order, *(e)* resulted in a deportation being carried out and *(f)* resulted in a decision allowing the applicant to remain in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [206853]

Mr. Byrne: In her letter of 17 December 2007 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, Lin Homer, chief executive of the UK Border Agency stated that of the 52,000 older asylum cases that had been concluded, 19,000 had led to grants of leave, 16,000 had led to removals and 17,000 had been closed due to previously erroneous or duplicate records. This update records the position from the start of the Case Resolution Directorate work to clear the legacy from July 2006 up to the end of November 2007. Lin Homer is due to update the Home Affairs Select Committee on the work to clear the backlog next month.

Licensed Premises: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* off licences and *(b)* other establishments with a licence to sell alcohol in Kent have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-age drinkers in each of the last five years; [195148]

(2) how many licensees in Kent have been prosecuted for serving under-age drinkers in each of the last five years. [195149]

Mr. Coaker: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selling alcohol to those under 18 years old in Kent police force area from 2003 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table. It is not possible to identify from the data whether these sales were from on or off licensed premises.

The offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can also attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND); there were no PNDs issued for the offence in Kent police force area in 2004, 10 PNDs issued in 2005 and five in 2006.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for certain alcohol related offences in Kent police force area for the years 2003 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against				
Offence description	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Holder of occasional permission or agent knowingly selling intoxicating liquor to person under 18	3	9	15	14	2
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18	0	3	0	0	0
Total	3	12	15	14	2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Holder of occasional permission or agent knowingly selling intoxicating liquor to person under 18
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.4(1)(a), Licensing Act S.169A & 169B, as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17.
From these two offences we cannot separately identify on and off premises consumption although both are covered by the statutes.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS— Office for Criminal Justice Reform— Ministry of Justice

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of knife crime were reported in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [207804]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to identify those offences which are knife-related from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime. However, since April 2007, police forces have been providing separate aggregate data on serious violence involving knives. Home Office statisticians will assess the quality of these data and it is planned that figures for 2007-08 will be published in the main crime bulletin in July 2008. Since the data are collected at police force area level, it will not be possible to show the number of incidents at constituency or borough level.

Statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland are a matter for the respective Secretaries of State.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of knife crime offences in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the North East in each year since 1997. [207805]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for the illegal possession of knives in a public place and on school premises, in the North East region of England and Wales from 1997-2006, are provided in the following table. Information on convictions in *(a)* Jarrow constituency and *(b)* South Tyneside cannot be provided as the data held by the Ministry of Justice are not held at that level of detail.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The data provided do not cover persons found guilty of 'other' crimes involving the use of a knife, for example assault or threatening behaviour. Court data held by the Ministry of Justice do not include the circumstances behind each case; therefore it is not possible to identify all offences involving knives.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the illegal possession of knives in public[1], North East region 1997-2006[2, 3]

	Found guilty
1997	134
1998	162
1999	180
2000	185
2001	230
2002	316
2003	317
2004	360
2005	376
2006	384

[1] Includes the offences of having an article with a blade or point on school premises under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 S 139 and having an article with a blade or point in a public place under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 S 139a.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.

As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in incidents of knife crime in (i) Jarrow constituency and (ii) South Tyneside in each year since 1997. [207867]

Mr. Coaker: The information available centrally relates to homicides by sharp instrument recorded each year between 1997-98 and 2006-07. As figures are not collected below police force area level, data relating to Northumbria police are given in the following table. Injuries data are not collected centrally.

Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2]: Northumbria police force area, 1997-98 to 2006-07[3]

Year offence initially recorded as homicide[4]	Number
1997-98	11
1998-99	5
1999-2000	9
2000-01	5
2001-02	4
2002-03	8
2003-04	8
2004-05	6
2005-06	7
2006-07	10

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Includes knives as well as other sharp instruments.

[3] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Racially Aggravated Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were the victim of crimes recorded as racially motivated in England in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [204377]

Mr. Coaker: The available statistics relate to racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police and are given in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify those of a racial nature from those of a religious nature.

Racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police

			Number of offences
Region	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Eastern	2,907	3,025	3,204
East Midlands	2,563	2,722	2,827
London	9,492	8,844	8,309
North East	1,328	1,620	1,692
North West	6,071	6,982	7,114
South East	3,418	4,601	5,323
South West	2,814	2,901	3,008
West Midlands	3,890	4,696	5,101
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,232	4,552	4,617
Total—England	35,715	39,943	41,195

Rape

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the proportion of victims of rape who know their attacker. [206502]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office Statistical Bulletin 03/08, published on 31 January 2008, which is available at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf

indicates that 88 per cent of the most recent serious sexual assaults committed against the victims who responded to the British Crime Survey (BS) Interpersonal Violence Module were committed by someone known to the victim, either as a partner, friend, relative or acquainted in another way such as a colleague from school, work or university.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what options she has considered to reduce the waiting time for a Security Industry Authority licence renewal; and what steps she has taken to protect those security industry employees whose jobs are jeopardised by the length of time taken for licence renewal. [205033]

Mr. Coaker: This is an operational matter for the Security Industry Authority (SIA). They are working to restore performance to acceptable levels as quickly as possible in order to reduce delays and the resulting impact on applicants. I have met with the SIA's chief executive, and receive regular reports from the SIA, in order to ensure that action is being taken to address performance issues.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often she receives reports from the Security Industry Authority (SIA) in relation to its *(a)* activity and *(b)* performance; how many individuals and companies were licensed by the SIA for the immobilisation, restriction and removal of vehicles in (i) Wansbeck constituency, (ii) Northumberland and (iii) the UK in each year since 2003; how many complaints were received about such individuals and companies; and how many of these were upheld and resulted in licences being suspended or withdrawn.[1] [203638]

Mr. Coaker: In line with the arrangements that exist with all non-departmental public bodies, the Department receives regular updates on performance and activities. The SIA also keeps its stakeholders updated through, for example, its website.

The SIA issues licences to individual wheel clampers, and not to companies. SIA licence numbers are not recorded at constituency or county level. Since 2003, the SIA has issued the following numbers of vehicle immobilisation licences in each year:

	Number
2003	40
2004	536
2005	61,298
2006	71,387
2007	81,013

The number of individuals who held valid vehicle immobilisation licences as at 19 May 2008 was 1,207.

Information about the number of complaints made about vehicle immobilisers is not available. In general, however, most complaints received by the SIA about vehicle immobilisation concern issues such as signage, fees and other areas which are outside the control of the SIA. All other complaints need police substantiation and are dealt with confidentially by the SIA's intelligence section.

To date a total of 10 vehicle immobilisation licences have been revoked. It is not possible to say how many of these were revoked as a direct consequence of complaints received from members of the public.

Security Industry Authority: Grayling Political Strategy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments the Security Industry Authority made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202267]

Mr. Coaker: I am informed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) that they have made payments to three branches of the Grayling company as follows:

(a) to Grayling Public Affairs for general public affairs work;

(b) to Grayling Public Relations to promote the licensing of security guards in England and Wales; and,

(c) to Grayling Scotland to promote the licensing of security guards in Scotland.

The total amounts over the past five years are as follows:

	£
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	126,093.54
2006-07	196,662.81
2007-08	54,357.98
Total	377,114.33

Work Permits: Health Professions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 20 non-EU nationalities received the most work permits for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses in 2007. [206258]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the 20 nationalities outside the EU, by volume, with the highest number of approved work permit applications from nurses and doctors in the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007. Figures are rounded to nearest five.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Work permit applications approved between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007

	Applications
Doctor	
India	220
South Africa	135
China, peoples Republic of	135
Pakistan	75
Sri Lanka	35
Australia	35
Egypt	35

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[1] [*Official Report, 12 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 3MC.*]

Work permit applications approved between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007

	Applications
Bangladesh	20
Nigeria	20
Syrian Arab Republic	20
Myanmar	15
Sudan	15
Malaysia	15
Iraq	10
United States of America	10
Iran	10
Romania	5
Singapore	5
Trinidad and Tobago	5
Ghana	5
Total	910
Nurse	
India	3,060
Philippines	1,580
Zimbabwe	1,050
South Africa	540
Nigeria	385
Ghana	195
Nepal	180
Pakistan	170
Australia	155
Mauritius	145
Zambia	135
Trinidad and Tobago	95
Kenya	90
Guyana	85
Jamaica	80
China, Peoples Republic of	75
New Zealand	55
Sri Lanka	35
Malawi	35
Botswana	35
Total	8,520

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

HEALTH

Arthritis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished episodes of care there were for patients resident in Southend with a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, broken down by (i) age group and (ii) sex in each year since 1997. [205056]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. Information is available at primary care trust (PCT) level. The following table shows the information available for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 for Southend-on-Sea PCT. This identifies patients who resided within Southend-on-Sea and were in hospital with a primary and/or secondary diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. On 1 October 2006, Southend-on-Sea PCT merged with Castle Point and Rochford PCT to create South East Essex PCT. This is reflected in the data provided in the table for 2006-07.

Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for a primary and/or secondary diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis for PCTs covering Southend-on-Sea, broken down by age and sex for the years 1997-98 to 2006-07

		Age and sex breakdown							
		0-44		*45-64*		*65-74*		*75-120*	
	Diagnosis type	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
2006-07	Primary	46	33	92	61	100	25	30	20
	Primary and secondary	91	38	206	124	177	111	281	95
2005-06	Primary	13	16	32	*	29	16	17	*
	Primary and secondary	27	24	78	51	70	53	163	46
2004-05	Primary	12	*	45	16	31	*	19	*
	Primary and secondary	28	6	84	30	82	39	156	34
2003-04	Primary	14	*	49	17	27	6	16	*
	Primary and secondary	24	*	98	38	48	*	90	25
2002-03	Primary	*	*	19	*	8	*	6	0
	Primary and secondary	6	*	22	15	10	*	11	0
2001-02	Primary	*	*	6	*	*	*	*	0
	Primary and secondary	*	*	9	*	7	8	9	*
2000-01	Primary	*	*	6	*	*	*	*	*
	Primary and secondary	*	*	9	7	6	10	8	*

Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for a primary and/or secondary diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis for PCTs covering Southend-on-Sea, broken down by age and sex for the years 1997-98 to 2006-07

		Age and sex breakdown							
		0-44		*45-64*		*65-74*		*75-120*	
	Diagnosis type	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
1999-2000	Primary	*	*	11	*	*	*	*	0
	Primary and secondary	*	*	12	8	6	*	7	6
1998-99	Primary	*	0	9	*	6	*	7	0
	Primary and secondary	*	*	24	16	28	21	48	11
1997-98	Primary	*	*	21	7	10	*	12	*
	Primary and secondary	11	*	54	*	68	25	65	25

Notes:

1. HES includes national health service hospitals in England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the NHS in England.

2. Data from 1997-98 to 2005-06 are for Southend-on-Sea PCT. The 2006-07 data reflect the merger of Southend-on-Sea PCT with Castle Point and Rochford PCT on 1 October 2006 to create South East Essex PCT, explaining the increase in FCEs. Patients may have been treated outside Southend-on-Sea.

3. *Data Quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

4. *Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

5. *Diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

6. *FCEs*

A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

7. *Ungrossed Data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

8. *Low Numbers*

For reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional smallest number has been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.

9. *Clinical Codes*

Diagnosis codes for the following conditions were used:
Felty's syndrome;
Rheumatoid lung disease;
Rheumatoid vasculitis;
Rheumatoid arthritis with involvement of other organs and systems;
Other seropositive Rheumatoid arthritis;
Seropositive Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified;
Seronegative Rheumatoid arthritis;
Adult-onset stills disease;
Rheumatoid bursitis;
Rheumatoid nodule;
Inflammatory polyarthropathy;
Other specified Rheumatoid arthritis;
Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified;
Juvenile Rheumatoid arthritis; and
Ankylosing Spondylitis.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

Autism

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will conduct an investigation into the potential effects of ultrasonic dispersal devices on people with autism. [207767]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

At the present time, the Government do not have any plans to conduct an investigation into the potential effects of dispersal devices on people with autism.

Cancer: East of England

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* head and neck cancer referrals there were to and *(b)* head and neck cancer procedures were carried out at (i) the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and (ii) Ipswich Hospital, (iii) Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, (iv) Colchester Hospital and (v) Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; and what methodology his Department uses to compile such data. [205434]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. Information is held on the number of urgent referrals for suspected head and neck cancers seen by national health service trusts. The most recent information that is available is for quarter three of the 2007-08 financial year.

The number of urgent referrals for suspected head and neck cancers seen at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust, Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust and Cambridge

University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in quarter three of the 2007-08 financial year are set out in the following table.

Number of urgent referrals for suspected head and neck cancers seen during quarter three of 2007-08

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	177
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	99
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust[1]	64
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust[2, 3]	95
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[4]	120

[1] Incorporating the Broomfield hospital, Chelmsford.
[2] Incorporating Colchester hospital.
[3] Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust became Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust on 1 May 2008.
[4] Incorporating Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge.
Source:
Cancer Waiting Time Statistics Quarter three 2007-08

Further information on the number of urgent referrals for suspected head and neck cancers is available on the Department's website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits/

Information on the numbers of procedures that take place at NHS trusts are compiled from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). HES are generated from data submitted by providers of NHS care in England. Healthcare providers collect administrative and clinical information which is then submitted to the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) and saved in a database. At prearranged times during the financial year, SUS takes an extract from its database and submits it to HES where the information is validated before it is released.

The term "head and neck cancer' includes any malignant neoplasm that affects any site or structure on or within the head or neck. Information is held on the numbers of patients who underwent a procedure whose primary diagnosis was a malignant neoplasm of a site or structure on or within the head and neck, however within the data it is not possible to distinguish between a procedure specifically related to the treatment of the cancer and one that is incidental to its treatment.

The number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the primary diagnosis is 'head and neck cancer' and there is a mention of any procedure in the primary or secondary procedure fields for Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust, Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust and Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the 2006-07 financial year are set out in the following table.

Total finished consultant episodes[1] where the primary diagnosis[2] is 'head and neck cancer'[3] and there is a mention of any procedure[4] in the primary or secondary procedure fields

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	517
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	214
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust[5]	101
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust[6, 7]	117
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[8]	415

Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
[1] FCEs
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
[2] The primary diagnosis is the first diagnosis field in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
[3] The diagnosis classifications used to calculate the total number of head and neck cancer patients undergoing a procedure are as follows:
malignant neoplasms of lip;
malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of tongue;
malignant neoplasm of gum;
malignant neoplasm of floor of mouth;
malignant neoplasm of palate;
malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of mouth;
malignant neoplasm of parotid gland;
malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified major salivary glands;
malignant neoplasm of tonsil;
malignant neoplasm of oropharynx;
malignant neoplasm of nasopharynx;
malignant neoplasm of pyriform sinus;
malignant neoplasm of hypopharynx;
malignant neoplasm of accessory sinuses;
malignant neoplasm of larynx;
malignant neoplasm of thyroid gland;
malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites in the lip, oral cavity and pharynx: Pharynx, unspecified;
malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites in the lip, oral cavity and pharynx: Waldeyer's ring;
malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites in the lip, oral cavity and pharynx:
Overlapping lesion of lip, oral cavity and pharynx; and secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of lymph nodes: Lymph nodes of head, face and neck.
[4] These figures represent a count of all finished consultant episodes where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 operation fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field of the record.
[5] Incorporating the Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford.
[6] Incorporating Colchester Hospital.
[7] Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust became Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust on 1 May 2008.
[8] Incorporating Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
Note:
Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
HES, The NH Information Centre for health and social care.

Cancer: Urinary System

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk (Christopher Fraser) of 7 May

2008, *Official Report*, columns 1001-2W, on cancer: urinary system, in what ways the Kent Cancer Network's Improving Outcomes Guidance implementation plan is not compliant; and when he expects the Kent Cancer Network to have submitted a compliant implementation plan. [206404]

Ann Keen: Kent and Medway Cancer Network will develop a compliant urological improving outcomes guidance plan by the end of June 2008 with clear implementation dates for when the service will be delivered.

Childbirth

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many babies were born before reaching 24 weeks gestation in each year since 2000; and how many of those survived beyond six months; [207135]

(2) how many and what percentage of babies born at *(a)* 21 weeks, *(b)* 22 weeks and *(c)* 23 weeks gestation survived beyond six months in each year since 2000; and what percentage of these babies were born at (i) level two and (ii) level three hospitals. [207136]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 13-14W.

Dehydration

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* three to nine, *(b)* 10 to 19, *(c)* 20 to 29, *(d)* 30 to 39, *(e)* 40 to 49, *(f)* 50 to 59 and *(e)* 60 years and over, were hospitalised with dehydration in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) region, (ii) month and (iii) sex. [208071]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the annual cost to the Exchequer of abolishing all charges for dental checks and *(b)* the number of people who paid a charge for such checks wholly or in part in the last year for which figures are available. [207520]

Ann Keen: There is no separate charge for a dental examination. The present three tier system of national health service dental charges sets charges according to the overall content of each course of treatment. The current band one charge of £16.20 applies to any course of treatment that consists of diagnostic and preventative care only, which can include an examination, any necessary x-rays, a scale and polish, and oral health advice. In 2006-07 a total of £147.9 million was collected in dental charges for band one courses of treatment delivered to charge paying patients.

The numbers of NHS courses of treatment delivered to charge payers in England in 2006-07, by treatment band, are available in Table seven of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. The report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

The number of courses of treatment does not equate to the number of people receiving treatment, as some patients will receive more than one course of treatment in a year.

Dental Services: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many new NHS dental practices have opened in each ward of Hemsworth constituency in each of the last five years; [206703]

(2) how many NHS dentists in Hemsworth constituency have *(a)* stopped accepting new NHS patients and *(b)* decided only to treat patients on a private basis in each of the last five years; [206704]

(3) how many people in Hemsworth constituency are on the waiting list for an NHS place at a local dental practice. [206705]

Ann Keen: This information is not centrally available.

Under the contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a national health service dentist to receive NHS care.

It is for local NHS organisations to determine how best to manage patients seeking NHS dental services.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to make available more NHS dental places in Hemsworth constituency. [206706]

Ann Keen: The dental reforms implemented in 2006 gave primary care trusts (PCTs), for the first time, the responsibility for providing or commissioning dental services in their area. It is for PCTs, including Wakefield PCT, to assess local needs, review current service provision and develop services to meet local needs.

Increasing the number of patients seen within national health service dental services is also now a formal priority in 'The Operating Framework. For the NHS in England 2008-09'. There was a substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008 to take account of this. Copies of the framework are available in the Library.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average distance travelled to a dental practice is for those registered with an NHS dentist in Hemsworth constituency. [206707]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts to plan the location of their dental services to best meet the needs of their population.

Validated information on the distance travelled by patients to receive national health service dental treatment can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent qualified dentists were working in the NHS in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust at the latest date for which figures are available. [206898]

Ann Keen: The number of dentists on open national health service contracts in England as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in table E1 of annex 3 of the "NHSDental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, on 23 August 2007, copies are available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology for counting and reporting the NHS dental work force is currently under review. The review, led by analysts at the Information Centre and the Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government, working in liaison with the Dental Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, aims to ensure that following the first year of the new dental contractual arrangements, the figures provide an appropriate measure of the work force.

The work force data provided in the 2006-07 report will therefore remain the latest available until this review is complete.

The Information Centre for health and social care is due to publish a report on dental working hours from 2006-07 and 2007-08 in August 2008. This report will contain some analysis of the full-time equivalent workforce and NHS commitment.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients were waiting to be registered with an NHS dentist in each primary care trust area at the latest date for which figures are available; [206899]

(2) how many people were waiting to be registered with an NHS dentist in Harrogate and Knaresborough in *(a)* 2006, (b) 2007 and *(c)* March 2008. [206901]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to make local arrangements to support patients in accessing NHS dental services.

Departmental Cost-effectiveness

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department achieved in efficiency savings in *(a)* public funding and regulation, *(b)* productive time (including quality), *(c)* procurement, *(d)* social care, *(e)* corporate services and *(f)* central budgets between 2005-06 and 2007-08. [207648]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has reported the following efficiency savings under the Gershon Programme. The Department's target was £6,500 million.

£ million

Workstream	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 (Q3)*
Public funding and regulation	77	270	501
Productive Time	963	1,756	3,101
Procurement	1,322	2,448	2,890
Social Care	179	390	600
Corporate Services	38	57	65
Central Budgets	0	0	0
Total	2,579	4,921	7,157

Final figures for 2007-08, the last year of the programme, have not yet been confirmed as final data for most contributing projects is reported a number of weeks after the year end.

Final figures will be collated in September and reported in our autumn performance report to be published in December.

The original delivery plan for our Gershon efficiency savings envisaged a contribution from reducing central budgets. Although central budgets have reduced significantly over three years, we subsequently chose not to count these against our Gershon target due to difficulties in calculating the proportion of any reduction that could be attributed solely to efficiency.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the individuals pictured on his Department's website are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS. [207588]

Mr. Bradshaw: Due to the volume of photography on the Department's website, to establish an answer to this question would incur disproportionate costs as photographs are sourced from a number of different suppliers.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals were employed as staff by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [206541]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies do not routinely record this information on their human resources systems, and to gather it would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207473]

Mr. Bradshaw: Staff below the senior civil service do not receive end-of-year bonuses. The amount and number of end-of-year bonuses paid to staff in the senior civil service in the Department and its agencies in 2007-08 are provided in the following table.

	Amount (£)	*Number*
Department	1,443,859	159
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	593,223	70
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	21,644	3

Pay arrangements for senior civil servants are common across all Departments and agencies, although they have flexibility on the specific values of bonuses within a common framework. Bonuses are based on the extent to which objectives are met, how they are met and how stretching they are.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors have schedules of work which comply with the requirements of the European Working Time Directive as interpreted by judgements of the European Court of Justice. [207587]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of local employers to implement the European working time directive as part of their health and safety obligations.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the results of the independent research commissioned by his Department on the effect of the operation of the European working time directive on medical training. [207589]

Ann Keen: The independent research on the impact of the European working time directive on medical training by Sheffield university will be published when it is completed in summer 2008. Once available, the report will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which junior doctor posts were discontinued in each of the last 18 months, broken down by trust. [207612]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the Answer of 9th May 2008, *Official Report,* column 1258W, on doctors: working hours, what plans he has to propose an extension to the implementation of the European working time directive beyond 2012; [207618]

(2) pursuant to the Answer of 9th May 2008, *Official Report,* column 1257W, on doctors: working hours, what assessment he has made of the merits of deferring full implementation of the 48-hour working week until 2012. [207615]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The national health service will assess whether 2009 implementation is achievable towards the end of this year, before advising the Department whether any services will need more time.

Epilepsy: Research

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for funding research *(a)* into premature deaths from epilepsy and *(b)* on NHS epilepsy treatment; and if he will make a statement. [207854]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is funding a wide range of epilepsy research including aspects relevant to premature death and to treatment. The University College London Hospital's Biomedical Research Centre is active in this field and the Great Ormond Street Hospital Biomedical Research Centre is also undertaking some relevant research.

The NIHR has awarded a programme grant for applied research on defining priorities and communicating evidence about benefit and harm of interventions for people with epilepsy. Currently funded NIHR projects include:

relative efficacy and cost-effectiveness of different treatment approaches currently used in the management of epilepsy in people with a learning disability; and

pharmacogenetics of GABAergic mechanisms of benefit and harm in epilepsy.

The Department is providing national health service support for epilepsy trials and studies through the Clinical Research Network for England. Details are given on the United Kingdom Clinical Research Network Portfolio Database which is available at:

www.pfsearch.ukcrn.org.uk/.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC's spend on research related to epilepsy was £4.9 million in 2006-07.

Eyesight: Testing

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the annual cost to the Exchequer of abolishing all charges for eye checks and *(b)* the number of people who paid a charge for such checks wholly or in part in the last year for which figures are available. [207521]

Ann Keen: There were an estimated 15.3 million sight tests carried out in England during 2006-07. Of these 10.5 million were funded by the national health service with 4.8 million being paid for privately. For 4,471 of the private sight tests, the NHS provided partial help. If the 4.8 million privately funded sight tests were paid for by the NHS at the 2007-08 sight test fee of £19.32 the cost would be an additional £93 million a year. There would be additional costs if the number of tests increased as a result of their being funded by the NHS.

Food: Advertising

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department will conduct its *(a)* interim and *(b)* final review of the nature and balance of food promotions to children across all media. [207797]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department plans to publish by the end of the summer its interim findings of changes to the nature and balance of food and drink advertisement and promotion to children. No time has yet been set for the publication of the final review.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females (i) successfully and (ii) unsuccessfully claimed compensation in relation to an infection contracted in an NHS hospital by (A) themselves and (B) a family member in each year since 2001, broken down by (1) age group and (2) primary care trust. [206120]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) has supplied tables showing health care associated infections, copies of the tables have been placed in the Library.

The NHSLA does not record data specifically for each hospital, but rather for the national health service body that runs each hospital. The tables therefore cover health care associated infection related claims made against primary care trusts, NHS foundation trusts and NHS trusts.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the minutes of the meetings of the Rapid Review Panel. [206808]

Ann Keen: The minutes of the Rapid Review Panel (RRP) are normally published six to eight weeks after the meeting. However we are currently updating the RRP website to ensure ease of access and all of the minutes of the meetings including the last meeting of 14 April 2008 have now been published on the Health Protection Agency's website and are available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/
HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/
1160994272839?p=1160994272839.

Junior Doctors: Accommodation

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether free accommodation is provided for foundation year one doctors who are on-call at night; whether it will be provided from August 2008; and if he will make a statement. [207297]

Ann Keen: The provision of free accommodation for foundation year 1 doctors who are on-call at night, is dependent on the contract of employment of the junior doctor, which is for agreement locally. The Junior Doctors Terms and Conditions of Service continue to provide that if a doctor is contractually required to live in hospital accommodation no charges should be made for the accommodation provided.

Macular Degeneration: Waiting Lists

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients have had to wait longer than one week for treatment to begin after first diagnosis of macular degeneration in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [207731]

Ann Keen: Information on waiting times for first treatment after diagnosis of macular degeneration is not held centrally.

NHS: Anniversaries

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is being spent by his Department on celebrating the 60th anniversary of the NHS. [208049]

Ann Keen: A budget of £300,000 has been allocated to mark the 60th anniversary of the national health service during 2008. This will be used to fund a wide range of activities including providing resources for the local NHS to celebrate the anniversary, events for staff and stakeholders and publication of a commemorative history.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to encourage organisations which are part of the NHS to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the NHS. [208050]

Ann Keen: To encourage national health service organisations to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the NHS, the Department worked with the NHS to develop a communications resource pack for the local NHS organisations. The pack includes a range of low or no-cost ideas that focus on having a celebration with purpose alongside staff, patients and stakeholders, interesting facts and figures, NHS 60 artwork and a press pack.

Regular updates on activity have been included in NHS staff communication channels and in face-to-face meetings with chief executives and directors of communication.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 131 of his Department's 2007 Annual Report, whether his Department placed any requirements on *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* strategic health authorities, *(c)* NHS trusts and *(d)* NHS foundation trusts as to how they spent their capital budgets in 2007-08. [205197]

Mr. Bradshaw: Of the £1 billion available to primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) approaching half was issued as PCT operational capital and SHA strategic capital or was released through asset sales and has no restrictions imposed on how the money is spent beyond that the funding, being capital resources, must be spent on the delivery of fixed assets.

For national health service trusts and foundation trusts (FTs), most of the £2.6 billion capital funding was set aside for them to access under their prudential borrowing regimes. It is entirely at the discretion of NHS trusts and NHS FTs what they spend this capital on, as long as it is to deliver fixed assets.

Across the two sectors, a total of approximately £1 billion was earmarked for expenditure on particular centrally promoted initiatives (known as programme budgets). Details are set out in Chapter 10 ('Capital Finance') of the 2007 Departmental Report. Copies of the Report are available in the Library.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence payments were made by his Department in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* primary care trust, *(b)* the nature of the complaint and *(c)* the amount paid in each case. [206119]

Ann Keen: The Department does not make clinical negligence payments. The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) handles claims made against members of its clinical negligence schemes. The NHSLA has provided information relating to clinical negligence payments it has made on behalf of primary care trusts since 1997, copies of the tables have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* claims and *(b)* settlements for clinical negligence were made in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08 for cases arising from each hospital in Essex; and how much compensation was paid by each hospital in each year. [206121]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been supplied by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA), the first table shows clinical negligence cases in Essex.

The NHSLA does not record data specifically for each hospital, but rather for the national health service body that runs each hospital. The second table therefore covers claims made against NHS foundation trusts and NHS trusts in Essex.

Data have also been provided for claims that have been settled by structured settlement but where there are still outstanding (O/S) payments to be made i.e. damages have been agreed to be paid over-time.

Numbers of clinical negligence claims received by the NHSLA for trusts in Essex since 2001-02

	Trust							
NHSLA notification year	*Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust*	*Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust*	*Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*	*Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*	*Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust*	*South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*	*North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*	*Total*
2001-02	28	26	27	35	17	4	3	140
2002-03	55	38	23	40	12	5	5	178
2003-04	44	29	29	44	25	2	—	173
2004-05	51	22	17	39	18	4	4	155
2005-06	45	25	29	27	26	—	2	154
2006-07	34	13	29	29	28	1	2	136
2007-08	34	22	33	27	28	2	2	148
Total	291	175	187	241	154	18	18	1,084

Number of closed clinical negligence claims settled with damages by settlement year for trusts in Essex since 2001-02 as at 31 March 2008

	Trust							
	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust		*Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust*		*Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*		*Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*	
NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*
2001-02	7	283,650	6	178,380	8	256,009	10	442,219
2002-03	20	1,004,120	11	2,972,157	21	1,586,175	12	432,417
2003-04	24	894,423	27	542,813	18	766,945	15	425,655
2004-05	22	770,165	14	515,104	5	111,280	20	1,866,654
2005-06	25	2,703,123	15	312,300	15	914,325	16	367,076
2006-07	21	608,179	13	1,893,750	12	6,365,269	19	3,169,314
2007-08	6	223,750	11	210,307	8	139,500	5	167,934
Total	125	6,487,411	97	6,624,811	87	10,139,503	97	6,871,320

	Trust							
	Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust		*South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*		*North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*		*Total*	
NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*
2001-02	7	897,123	2	92,000	2	90,573	42	2,199,954
2002-03	12	710,500	6	262,797	—	—	82	6,968,167
2003-04	16	816,881	2	14,500	1	65,000	103	3,526,217

	Trust							
	Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust		*South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*		*North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*		*Total*	
NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*
2004-05	14	186,563	2	1,889,783	1	5,000	78	5,344,549
2005-06	15	3,412,955	2	99,000	2	285,000	90	8,093,778
2006-07	10	1,306,718	1	26,382	3	175,000	79	13,544,612
2007-08	9	227,000	2	118,449	1	43,500	42	1,130,490
Total	83	7,557,739	17	2,502,911	10	624,073	516	40,807,768

Number of structured settlement claims settled with damages by settlement year for trusts in Essex since 2001-02 as at 31 March 2008

	Trust							
	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust				*Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*			
NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*0/S damages*	*Total Damages*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*0/S damages*	*Total damages*
2002-03	1	955,956	1,044,044	2,000,000	1	853,488	1,696,512	2,550,000
2004-05	—	—	—	—	1	1,263,078	2,336,922	3,600,000
2005-06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2007 08	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	955,956	1,044,044	2,000,000	2	2116,566	4,033,434	6,150,000

	Trust							
	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust				*South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*			
NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*0/S damages*	*Total damages*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*0/S damages*	*Total damages*
2002-03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004-05	1	409,677	240,323	650,000	1	1,270,186	2,198,464	3,468,650
2005-06	2	2,681,111	4,518,889	7,200,000	—	—	—	—
2007-08	1	1,369,799	2,601,201	3,971,000	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4,460,587	7,360,413	11,821,000	1	1,270,186	2,198,464	3,468,650

	Total			
NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*0/S damages*	*Total damages*
2002-03	2	1,809,444	2,740,556	4,550,000
2004-05	3	2,942,941	4,775,709	7,718,650
2005-06	2	2,681,111	4,518,889	7,200,000
2007-08	1	1,369,799	2,601,201	3,971,000
Total	8	8,803,295	14,636,355	23,439,650

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid out by the National Health Service Litigation Authority in compensation in each of the last 10 years. [206125]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table. The data was provided by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA).

£000

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
CNST	0	229	4,783	22,521	[1]201,869	175,277	293,384	329,412	384,390	424,351
ELS	29,075	55,926	264,584	[2]842,093	343,242	269,345	128,071	169,414	168,203	153,246
Ex-RHA	11,498	13,921	7,989	7,372	3,832	1,562	1,059	4,068	7,716	1,794
Total	40,573	70,076	277,356	871,986	548,943	446,184	422,514	502,894	560,309	579,391
LTPS	n/a	n/a	31	551	3,112	14,480	7,395	21,280	26,692	29,697
PES	n/a	n/a	359	429	1,931	6,866	2,735	3,839	4,586	4,186
Total	0	0	390	980	5,043	21,346	10,130	25,119	31,278	33,883
Grand total	40,573	70,076	277,746	[2]872,966	[1]553,986	467,530	432,644	528,013	591,587	613,274

[1,2] £612,000 in 2000-01 and £119,000 in 2001-02 reflects the amounts reimbursed to trusts as part of the 'call-in' when the NHSLA took on responsibility for handling all claims on behalf of trusts and not just those above the agreed excess level.

Notes:

1. CNST relates to payments under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts.
2. ELS relates to payments under the Existing Liabilities Scheme.
3. Ex-RHA relates to payments under the Ex-Regional Health Authorities Scheme.
4. LTPS relates to payments under the Liabilities to Third Parties Scheme.
5. PES relates to payments under the Property Expenses Scheme.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds have been set aside during the next 12 months by the National Health Service Litigation Authority in relation to *(a)* compensation payments to and *(b)* possible legal costs incurred by patients or patients' families and next of kin; and if he will make a statement. [206126]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation has estimated that for the next 12 months, clinical compensation payments will total £455 million, defence costs will be £63 million and claimant costs will be £100 million.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what legislative provisions the National Health Service Litigation Authority is regulated; what changes have been made since enactment; what further changes are planned; and if he will make a statement. [206162]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) was established by the National Health Service Litigation Authority (Establishment and Constitution) Order 1995, S.I. 1995/2800. The order was made under section 11(1), (2) and (4) of, and paragraph 9(7)(b) of schedule 5 to, the National Health Service Act 1977. Following the consolidation of the enabling authority, this order now has effect as if made under the National Health Service Act 2006, section 28 and the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, section 22, by virtue of the National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, section 4, schedule 2, part 1, paragraph 1. S.I. 1995/2800 has been amended by:

the National Health Service Litigation Authority (Establishment and Constitution) Amendment Order 2002, S.I. 2002/2621; and

the National Health Service Litigation Authority (Establishment and Constitution) Amendment (No. 2) Order 2005, S.I. 2005/2621.

The National Health Service Litigation Authority Regulations 1995, S.I. 1995/2801, make detailed provision about the operation of the NHSLA. The Regulations were made under sections 16 and 126(4) of, and paragraphs 12 and 16 of schedule 5 to, the National Health Service Act 1977. Following the consolidation of the enabling authority, these regulations now have effect as if made under the National Health Service Act 2006, section 29, schedule [illegible] paragraphs 5, 13 and the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, section 25, schedule 5, paragraphs 5, 13, again by virtue of the National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, section 4, schedule 2, part 1, paragraph 1. S.I. 1995/2801 has been amended by:

National Health Service (Functions of Health Authorities and Administration Arrangements) Regulations 1996, S.I. 1996/708;

National Health Service Litigation Authority (Amendment) Regulations 1996, S.I. 1996/968;

Health Authorities (Membership and Procedure) Amendment Regulations 1997, S.I. 1997/2991;

National Health Service (Pilot Schemes: Miscellaneous Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 1998, S.I. 1998/646;

Special Health Authorities (Amendment) Regulations 1998, S.I. 1998/1576;

Health Authorities (Membership and Procedure) Amendment Regulations 2000, S.I. 2000/696;

National Health Service Litigation Authority (Amendment) Regulations 2000, S.I. 2000/2433;

National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 (Supplementary, Consequential etc. Provisions) Regulations 2002, S.I. 2002/2469;

National Health Service (Local Pharmaceutical Services etc.) Regulations 2002, S.I. 2002/2861;

Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (Supplementary and Consequential Provision) (NHS Foundation Trusts) Order 2004, S.I. 2004/696;

National Health Service (Local Pharmaceutical Services etc.) Regulations 2006, S.I. 2006/552; and

Enterprise Act 2002 (Disqualification from Office:-General) Order 2006, S.I. 2006/1722.

The Special Health Authorities (SHA) Abolition Order 2005, S.I. 2005/502, dealt with the abolition of the Family Health Services Appeal Authority (FHSAA) and transferred its responsibilities to the NHSLA. This order was made under the powers conferred by sections 11(1), (2) and (4) and 126(3) and (4) of the National Health Service Act 1977. Following the consolidation of the enabling authority, this order now has effect as if made under the National Health Service Act 2006, section 28 and the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, section 22 by virtue of the National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s 4, schedule 2, part 1, paragraph 1.

The National Health Service (Complaints) Regulations 2004, S.I. 2004/1786, make provision for complaints in the NHS for specific NHS bodies, which include SHAs to which section 2 of the Health Services Commissioners Act 1993 applies. These regulations were amended by the National Health Service (Complaints) Amendment Regulations 2006, S.I. 2006/2084

Section 2(5)(b) of the Health Service Commissioner Act 1993 provides for an Order in Council to be made to include other SHAs than those listed at section 2(1). The NHSLA was included through the following order:

The Health Service Commissioner for England SHAs Order 2005, S.I. 2005/251.

The Secretary of State is also able to direct the NHSLA by virtue of sections 16D, 17, 18(3) and 126(4) of the National Health Service Act 1977, section 7(3) and (4) of the Health and Medicines Act 1988. The enabling authority under the 1977 Act has subsequently been consolidated under section 8 of the NHS Act 2006.

Directions that regulate the NHSLA are:

The National Health Service Litigation Authority (Functions) Directions 1995;

The National Health Service (Clinical Negligence Scheme) Directions 1997;

The National Health Service (Existing Liabilities Scheme) Directions 1997;

Directions to the National Health Service Litigation Authority Arrangements for Reimbursement of Health Authorities For Payments Under Structured Settlements in Respect of Clinical Negligence Claims 1999;

The National Health Service Litigation Authority Directions 2005;

Directions as to the Functions of the National Health Service Litigation Authority (GDS Contracts Disputes) 2005;

Directions as to the Functions of the National Health Service Litigation Authority (PDS Agreements Disputes) 2005;

Directions as to the Functions of the National Health Service Litigation Authority (GDS Contract and PDS Agreements Transitional Disputes) 2005;

National Health Service Litigation Authority (Functions) (England) Directions 2005;

National Health Service Litigation Authority (Functions) (England and Wales) Directions 2005;

The National Health Service Litigation Authority and National Health Service Trusts (Supply Of Services and Facilities To The FHSAA) Directions 2005;

National Health Service Litigation Authority and Primary Care Trust Directions 2005; and

The National Health Service Litigation Authority (Functions) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2007.

In future, the Secretary of State intends to issue Directions to the NHSLA with regard to the resolution of disputes in primary medical services over the general practitioner systems of choice primary care trust-practice agreement.

NHS: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what priority is accorded to training in nutritional care within the Knowledge and Skills Framework of Agenda for Change. [206665]

Ann Keen: The NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework sets out the knowledge and skills that NHS staff might need to apply in their posts. It is used to review how staff are applying the knowledge and skills required in their work and identify any training and development needs for individual staff. Nutritional care is one such training need that is covered in both the core and specific dimensions of the Knowledge and Skills Framework, but the priority given to this would be determined at a local level.

NHS: Personal Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what items of information are captured by the National Reporting and Learning System; [206668]

(2) how many nutrition-related adverse incidents were recorded in the National Reporting and Learning System in each month since it was established; [206669]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each report on nutrition produced by the National Patient Safety Agency in the last 12 months. [206670]

Ann Keen: The National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) contains information on incidents relating to patient safety for all national health service organisations in England and Wales. For each incident, the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) collect details on where, when, and what occurred, including a textual description of the event, as well as basic demographic information on the patient(s) involved (e.g. gender, age and ethnic group) and any resultant harm to the patient. Optional fields are also provided to the reporter for the provision of further details (e.g. additional analysis of the cause of an event).

The following table shows a list of nutrition-related adverse incidents recorded on the NRLS in each month since it was established.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
January	773	1,731	2,264
February	848	1,664	2,087
March	955	1,868	2,270
April	1,101	1,803	2,362
May	1,342	2,007	2,524
June	1,357	2,084	2,563
July	1,480	2,103	2,697
August	1,382	2,072	2,465
September	1,501	2,053	2,464
October	1,561	2,171	2,717
November	1,653	2,115	2,493
December	1,520	1,866	2,232

The NPSA has published two nutrition themed reports, Protected Mealtime Review: Findings and Recommendations Report and 'National Screening: Structured Investigation Project' neither of which are based on the aforementioned NRLS data. Copies of both reports have been placed in the Library.

NHS: Transport

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ask the Healthcare Commission to include in its annual health check the monitoring of performance of private patient transport services contracted for the use of NHS patients. [206457]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Healthcare Commission's annual health check is an independent assessment of national health service organisations performance. The Healthcare Commission has recently consulted on the content of their annual health check and is due to publish the 2008-09 assessment process soon. It is not for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to determine the content of the assessment, other than to ensure it covers the national priorities that have been set out by Government.

Northwick Park Hospital: Maternal Mortality

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Healthcare Commission's report into maternal deaths at Northwick Park hospital; and what recommendations have been made to trusts on *(a)* optimum models of management and organisation of maternity services and *(b)* the use of agency personnel; [205543]

(2) whether he has assessed the effect on the performance of NHS trusts of the Healthcare Commission's recommendations on the monitoring of quality and performance of maternity services by NHS trusts following its investigation into maternal deaths at Northwick Park hospital. [205884]

Ann Keen: The Healthcare Commission (HCC) report into the maternal deaths at Northwick Park hospital was published on the 23 August 2006. We welcomed the report and gave it careful consideration.

Our framework document, 'Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service', published in April 2007, took account of the HCC report along with other evidence. It is the delivery mechanism for the Government's maternity commitments and is the strategy for modernised maternity services, placing safety, quality and improving standards at the very heart of its vision. Copies of the framework document have been placed in the Library and can also be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_073312

The use of agency personnel is a matter best determined by local trusts in light of local circumstances.

The HCC undertook a review of maternity services during 2007 covering all trusts providing maternity services, and published its findings in January 2008. The review assessed performance against a range if issues and indicators, covering clinical focus, women-centred care and efficiency and capability. The data enable trusts and commissioners to compare and benchmark their outcomes and performance against others. A national report containing detailed analysis of the review is expected to be published by the Healthcare Commission this summer.

Nurses: Schools

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many school nurses are employed in each primary care trust region; and how much they cost in the last year for which figures are available. [207641]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of fully-qualified school nurses in England broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT).

The cost of employing school nurses is not identified separately. The employment costs of school nurses are included within the employment costs for all qualified nurses.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses working in the area of school nursing in England by SHA area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount	
		School nursing nurses	*of which qualified school nurses*[1]
England		3,162	1,227
North East Strategic Health Authority		166	57
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	RLN	18	18
County Durham PCT	5ND	36	29
Darlington PCT	5J9	9	2
Gateshead PCT	5KF	20	3
Hartlepool PCT	5D9	7	[2]—
Middlesbrough PCT	5KM	24	[2]—
Newcastle PCT	5D7	1	1
North Tees PCT	5E1	16	[2]—
Northumberland Care Trust	TAC	4	4
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	5QR	15	[2]—
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	16	[2]—
North West Strategic Health Authority		673	250
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5HG	35	9
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	5CC	24	[2]—
Blackpool PCT	5HP	19	8
Bolton PCT	5HQ	40	39
Bury PCT	5JX	22	22
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5NP	45	6
Central Lancashire PCT	5NG	35	2
Cumbria PCT	5NE	31	15
East Lancashire PCT	5NH	48	5
Halton and St Helens PCT	5NM	43	14
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	5NQ	18	14
Knowsley PCT	5J4	27	1
Liverpool PCT	5NL	17	[2]—
Manchester PCT	5NT	62	40
North Lancashire PCT	5NF	22	9
Oldham PCT	5J5	34	12
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust	RBS	15	[2]—
Sefton PCT	5NJ	31	[2]—
Stockport PCT	5F7	17	3
Tameside and Glossop PCT	5LH	26	26
The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	RBL	32	12
Warrington PCT	5J2	16	13
West Cheshire PCT	5NN	14	[2]—
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority		389	181
Barnsley PCT	5JE	18	18
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	5NY	23	23
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	RWY	2	[2]—
Calderdale PCT	5J6	21	13
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	5NW	6	3
Hull Teaching PCT	5NX	18	7
Kirklees PCT	5N2	36	36
Leeds PCT	5N1	74	49
North East Lincolnshire PCT	5AN	17	[2]—
North Lincolnshire PCT	5EF	15	2
North Yorkshire and York PCT	5NV	28	7
Rotherham PCT	5H8	37	7
Sheffield PCT	5N4	47	16
Wakefield District PCT	5N3	29	[2]—
York Hospitals NHS Trust	RCB	13	[2]—
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority		267	67
Bassetlaw PCT	5ET	3	[2]—
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RFS	34	1
Derby City PCT	5N7	34	23
Derbyshire County PCT	5N6	18	1
Leicester City Teaching PCT	5PC	20	3
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	5PA	56	1

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses working in the area of school nursing in England by SHA area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses working in the area of school nursing in England by SHA area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount	
		School nursing nurses	*of which qualified school nurses*[1]
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N9	39	7
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	37	30
Nottingham City PCT	5EM	6	[2]—
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	5N8	12	1
The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWD	8	[2]—
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority		376	187
Birmingham East and North PCT	5PG	18	17
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS trust	RYG	1	[2]—
Coventry Teaching PCT	5MD	18	[2]—
Dudley PCT	5PE	17	1
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5MX	24	[2]—
North Staffordshire PCT	5PH	19	13
Sandwell PCT	5PF	23	1
Shropshire County PCT	5M2	14	2
Solihull Care Trust	TAM	17	[2]—
South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Trust	RRE	11	1
South Staffordshire PCT	5PK	54	53
Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT	5PJ	31	29
Telford and Wrekin PCT	5MK	12	[2]—
Walsall Teaching PCT	5M3	21	4
Warwickshire PCT	5PM	39	22
Wolverhampton City PCT	5MV	25	25
Worcestershire PCT	5PL	32	19
East of England Strategic Health Authority		241	77
Bedfordshire PCT	5P2	35	5
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	RT1	2	1
Cambridgeshire PCT	5PP	12	6
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	5P3	29	24
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	RGP	6	1
Luton PCT	5GC	16	5
Mid Essex PCT	5PX	20	14
Norfolk PCT	5PQ	2	[2]—
North East Essex PCT	5PW	23	8
Peterborough PCT	5PN	12	1
South East Essex PCT	5P1	25	2
South West Essex Teaching PCT	5PY	24	[2]—
West Essex PCT	5PV	2	1
West Hertfordshire PCT	5P4	33	9
London Strategic Health Authority		432	168
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	12	2
Barnet PCT	5A9	5	1
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	25	20
Bromley PCT	5A7	3	[2]—
Camden PCT	5K7	7	1
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	RQM	2	2
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	17	10
Croydon PCT	5K9	16	[illegible]
Ealing PCT	5HX	16	2
Enfield PCT	5C1	25	[2]—
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	25	24
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	7	7
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	13	2
Havering PCT	5A4	15	15
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	21	6
Hounslow PCT	5HY	11	[2]—
Islington PCT	5K8	22	4
Kingston PCT	5A5	8	2
Lambeth PCT	5LD	19	19
Lewisham PCT	5LF	19	12
Newham PCT	5C5	8	6
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	3	[2]—
Redbridge PCT	5NA	21	14
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	21	3
Southwark PCT	5LE	7	7
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	28	[illegible]
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	11	2
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	11	[2]—
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	21	6
Westminster PCT	5LC	13	1
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority		201	89
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5P7	20	16
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	5QA	15	14
Hastings and Rother PCT	5P8	19	19
Medway NHS Trust	RPA	13	[2]—
South Downs Health NHS Trust	RDR	26	[2]—
Surrey PCT	5P5	43	3
West Kent PCT	5P9	23	4
West Sussex Teaching PCT	5P6	42	33
South Central Strategic Health Authority		166	67
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	5QG	22	14
Berkshire West PCT	5QF	33	17
Hampshire PCT	5QC	48	6
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	5QT	9	[2]—
Milton Keynes PCT	5CQ	6	6
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RN5	15	[2]—
Oxfordshire PCT	5QE	22	22
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5FE	8	2
Southampton City PCT	5L1	3	[2]—
South West Strategic Health Authority		251	84
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5FL	2	[2]—
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	5QN	11	[2]—
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5QP	19	19
Devon PCT	5QQ	32	28
Dorset PCT	5QM	12	8
Gloucestershire PCT	5QH	36	1
North Bristol NHS Trust	RVJ	17	[2]—
North Somerset PCT	5M8	9	1
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	RK9	4	[2]—
Plymouth Teaching PCT	5F1	17	[2]—
Somerset PCT	5QL	18	9
Swindon PCT	5K3	17	4
Torbay Care Trust	TAL	9	6

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses working in the area of school nursing in England by SHA area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses working in the area of school nursing in England by SHA area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount	
		School nursing nurses	of which qualified school nurses[1]
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	RA7	18	6
Wiltshire PCT	5QK	30	2

[1] Qualified school nurses hold the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Specialist Practice Qualification with an outcome in school nursing—which is a recordable qualifications on the NMC register.

[2] = zero

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Patients

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have *(a)* received appointment notifications in error and *(b)* kept appointments which were not recorded in a hospital patient administration system in each of the last three years. [205572]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Where appointments have been made through the choose and book system, we are aware of only one system error that has affected patients. Out of 8.5 million bookings made, the error is known to have affected 272 bookings , between 11 April 2008 and 24 April 2008 through the transposition of unique reference numbers.

The affected cases were quickly identified and action was taken to minimise any potential impact for patients. All hospitals and patients were contacted where the possibility had arisen of notification of incorrect appointments resulting from the error. In many cases it was established that no adverse effect on patients had occurred and at no time was patient confidentiality compromised.

The supplier made corrections to the system and no recurrence of the problem has been experienced since 24 April 2008. While no further recurrence is expected in future, an automated process has been put in place to identify the problem immediately if that should happen.

Pregnancy Book

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report,* columns 2045-7W, on the Pregnancy Book, what criteria must be satisfied before the Pregnancy Book is revised. [207637]

Ann Keen: The Department regularly considers updating its publications and the only criterion for updating a publication such as the Pregnancy Book is that there is sufficient need to update the material within it to make publishing an update a sensible use of resources.

Tattooing: Plastic Surgery

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that companies offering tattoos and/or tattoo removal are regulated and inspected by *(a)* the Healthcare Commission and *(b)* the new Care Quality Commission. [207842]

Mr. Bradshaw: Regulation of tattooing and skin piercing is carried out by local authorities.

The Healthcare Commission does not regulate tattooing businesses. It currently regulates tattoo removals which are carried out surgically or by using class 3B or 4 laser equipment.

The Department is currently consulting on the scope of activities to be included in the Care Quality Commission's registration scheme for health and social care, and this consultation will run until 17 June.

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints his Department has received from patients who had been treated in tattoo and tattoo removal facilities in the UK in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last five years. [207843]

Ann Keen: The Department has received a number of representations about tattoos, tattoo removals and related issues. However, it is more likely that a person who was not satisfied with their tattoo or tattoo removal procedure would complain in the first instance to the provider of that service, and then to local agencies such as the local authority, or the Healthcare Commission in the case of tattoo removals involving surgery or laser equipment, rather than directing their complaint to the Department.

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure that clinics offering tattoos and/or tattoo removals meet high standards of clinical quality and consumer protection. [207844]

Mr. Bradshaw: Regulation of tattooing and skin piercing is carried out by local authorities (LAs). The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by the Local Government Act 2003, gives LAs powers to require tattooing and cosmetic piercing businesses in their area to register and observe byelaws on hygiene and cleanliness. It is an offence for such a business to trade without being registered with the LA or to breach local byelaws.

LAs in London generally use the London Local Authorities Act 1991 (private legislation) which provides for a licensing scheme for businesses providing special treatments such as tattooing and cosmetic piercing. It is an offence to trade without being licensed or to breach licence conditions.

LAs also have general enforcement powers under health and safety at work legislation. This allows LAs to use improvement and prohibition notices, and ultimately prosecute tattooing and piercing businesses, if appropriate. Taken together with Healthcare Commission regulation of surgical tattoo removals and, currently, tattoo removals involving lasers, mean that there is protection for people who choose to use these services.

Tobacco: Young People

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to discourage adults from purchasing tobacco on behalf of children as part of the Government's commitment to reduce smoking amongst young people; [207378]

(2) if he will consider the merits of introducing a criminal offence of proxy purchasing of tobacco by adults on behalf of minors. [207380]

Dawn Primarolo: This issue was considered by Parliament with respect to the tobacco provisions of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. During the passage of the legislation through Parliament an amendment was tabled in the House of Lords that was subsequently withdrawn after the Government indicated that they were not satisfied that there was sufficient evidence that proxy purchasing of tobacco problem was a widespread problem or that any criminal offence created could be effectively enforced. However, the Government have undertaken to review the position in a year.

The Department has raised the issue in its consultation paper "Consultation on the future of tobacco control", copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 4 June 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Vehicles

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statistics are collated by his Department on the number of abandoned cars. [208097]

Jonathan Shaw: Statistics on the number of abandoned vehicles are collated from WasteDataFlow and are published on the DEFRA website.

The statistics reveal a decrease from 223,500 in 2000-01 to 81,700 in 2006-07.

A copy of the data has been placed in the Library of the House.

Aggregates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the tonnage of aggregates extracted in each year since 2002. [207696]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Information on mineral extraction in Great Britain is available from the Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry undertaken by the Office of National Statistics for the Departments for Communities and Local Government and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Information on aggregates extracted is set out in the following table.

Aggregates (sand and gravel and crushed rock) extracted

Million tonnes

	England	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Total*
2002	159.0	19.5	30.8	209.3
2003	153.3	19.5	30.2	203.0
2004	160.1	19.6	34.0	213.7
2005	151.4	19.2	33.5	204.1
2006	152.8	21.0	33.4	207.2

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of aggregates tonnage was recycled in each year since 1997. [207700]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the amounts of construction, demolition and excavation waste used as aggregates in England are available from the 'Survey of Arisings and Use of Aggregates in England' published by my Department. The survey is undertaken every two years. Information for the years 1999-2005 is as follows:

	Million tonnes
1999	22.1
2001	36.5
2003	39.6
2005	42.1

Flood Control: Vacancies

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many vacancies for *(a)* flood risk engineers, *(b)* flood risk planners, *(c)* flood risk project managers and *(d)* other flood risk management posts there are, in each region; and what steps his Department is taking to (i) recruit and (ii) retain people with relevant skills. [205608]

Mr. Woolas: Flood risk vacancies at the Environment Agency as of 14 May 2008 are broken down by region and can be found in the attached appendix. Figures for other operating authorities are not available centrally.

The Environment Agency runs a combination of national recruitment campaigns, targeted localised activity and annual schemes to attract civil engineering graduates and students for its Foundation Degree course in Rivers and Coastal Engineering.

The Environment Agency supports professional development enabling flood risk management engineers to achieve incorporated and chartered engineering status through the Engineering Council.

The Environment Agency has developed a new reward system to help recruit and retain employees with specialist skills; this will be implemented this year subject to relevant approvals.

Appendix

Region	*Positions*	*Vacancy*
	FR Planners	9
	FR Engineers	8
	FR Project managers	9
	Other	1
Anglian Total		27
Midlands	FR Planners	1
	FR Engineers	5
	FR project managers	8
	Other	3
Midlands Total		17
North East	FR Planners	2
	FR Engineers	9
	FR project managers	9
	Other	0
North East Total		20

Appendix

Region	*Positions*	*Vacancy*
North West	FR Planners	1
	FR Engineers	10
	FR project managers	7
	Other	3
North West Total		21
Southern	FR Planners	3
	FR Engineers	7
	FR project managers	4
	Other	0
Southern Total		14
South West	FR Planners	4
	FR Engineers	15
	FR project managers	9
	Other	2
South West Total		30
Thames	FR Planners	1
	FR Engineers	9
	FR project managers	7
	Other	4
Thames Total		21
Wales	FR Planners	2
	FR Engineers	4
	FR project managers	7
	Other	1
Wales Total		14
National Capital programme management Service	Project Managers	35
Head Office Flood Risk management	Other	10

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects Sir Michael Pitt to publish his final report on the summer floods of 2007. [208449]

Mr. Woolas: I expect Sir Michael Pitt to publish the final report in the period late June to early July.

Floods: Planning

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to conclude his Department's review of emergency planning procedures and measures to be taken following the summer floods of 2007. [208448]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA published a substantially revised Lead Government Department Plan, which sets out the responsibilities of DEFRA and others in relation to serious flooding, last December. A further revised version was issued on 22 May 2008. As revised, the plan takes account of lessons identified following the summer 2007 floods, the East Coast Tidal Surge of last November and the floods earlier this year, as well as issues raised in the Interim Pitt report.

DEFRA will continue to review and revise emergency planning procedures in light of any further recommendations from the Pitt Review and future flood events.

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 464W, on horses: animal welfare, when he will place in the Library a copy of the file; what the reasons are for the time taken to place the file in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [207187]

Jonathan Shaw: Some of the papers were placed in the Library of the House on 3 June. The delay was caused by the need to identify those papers not to be published as they attract legal professional privilege.

WALES

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208403]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Information about the gender and ethnicity of Wales Office staff is published in our departmental annual report, available in the House Library or on our website at:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

The Wales Office is a small organisation, which, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, does not specify the number of staff with disabilities for privacy reasons.

Wales Office staff are not required to provide any details of their sexuality, so information on this is not available.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in his Department in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207476]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No bonus payments have been made this financial year.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208370]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Staff appraisals for the year 2007-08 have just been completed.

No performance-related payments have been paid to date, and so a breakdown is not available.

PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords Reform

Q15. **David Taylor:** To ask the Prime Minister when he expects Government policy on reform of the House of Lords to be implemented. [207958]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 641W.

Developing Countries: Disease Control

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister (1) pursuant to his recent announcement on the provision of bed nets, what discussions he had with the All-Party Parliamentary Malaria Group prior to the announcement; [207610]

(2) pursuant to his recent announcement on the provision of bed nets, what the basis was for the announcement that US$200 million would be spent on 20 million bed nets; what estimate he has made of the market price of bed nets; and on what type of bed net this estimate was based; [207632]

(3) what arrangements he made to inform hon. Members of the arrangements for provision of 20 million additional bed nets. [207640]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Please see the combined response.

Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) have regular contact with the All-Party Parliamentary Malaria Group (APPG) about all aspects of malaria containment and treatment.

The Prime Minister's announcement pledged the UK to provide 20 million bed nets as a contribution to the wider effort needed to meet universal coverage. A fixed cash sum was not committed to the actual costs will vary by country depending on market conditions and individual country costs.

DFID anticipates a bed net unit cost of about £4.50 but precise costs will vary from country to country. Decisions on type of bed net will be taken according to specific country needs.

The decision to pledge twenty million bed nets represented an intensification of one part of the UK's existing policy towards malaria containment and is in response to the initiative to increase global bed net coverage.

SCOTLAND

Scottish Business

7. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Government are taking to ensure a long-term stable economic environment for Scottish business. [207936]

Des Browne: This Government's fiscal rules and economic policies have established the conditions which have allowed more than a decade of macroeconomic strength for the UK.

Child Poverty

8. **Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the representatives of anti-poverty groups in Scotland on the Government's policy on child poverty. [207937]

David Cairns: I hosted a roundtable meeting on child poverty in Scotland in January, which brought together key Scottish charities and Members of this House. All sides welcomed the chance to make better connections on tackling child poverty, and I will maintain an ongoing dialogue.

Postal Services

9. **Mr. Alan Reid:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on postal services in Scotland. [207938]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

Wave and Tidal Power

10. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the development of wave and tidal power generation in Scotland. [207939]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with our Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform colleagues on a range of issues. We fully recognise the potential Scotland has to develop wave and tidal power electricity generation. The European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney, which has already benefited from £2 million of funding from the UK Government, will play a key part in advancing such technology.

Renewable Energy

11. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the proportion of Scotland's energy requirements met by renewable energy. [207940]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend and I have had no such recent discussions with the First Minister. As this Government's Energy Bill makes clear, our energy requirements can only be met from a mix of sources, including renewables.

Card Accounts

12. **Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the payment of pensions and benefits in Scotland through card accounts. [207941]

David Cairns: None. The current Post Office Card Account contract ends in March 2010. The DWP is leading on procuring a successor and expects to announce the successful bidder later this year. The existing Post Office Card Account is a product provided by Post Office Ltd and is available throughout Great Britain. The successor product will also be available throughout Great Britain.

The Government remains committed to allowing people to access their pension and benefit in cash at the post office if they choose to do so, and there is a range of accounts which make that possible. The new account will need to be available on a national basis and accessible to those who need it.

Energy Demand

13. **Mr. Doran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on energy demand in Scotland. [207942]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with our Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform colleagues on a range of issues. The Energy Bill, which will update and strengthen the legislative framework so that it is appropriate for today's energy market and fit for the challenges we face on climate change and security of supply.

HMS Gannet

14. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next expects to meet Ministry of Defence officials to discuss HMS Gannet at Prestwick airport. [207943]

Des Browne: I regularly meet with officials to discuss a range of matters and, as my hon. Friend will be aware, I visited HMS Gannet on 29 February 2008.

Electricity Generation

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of electricity generation capacity in Scotland. [207931]

David Cairns: I refer the Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (Mr. Marshall) on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1730. The most recent assessment we have made is that Scotland has about 10.5 GW of electricity generation capacity.

The Government's Energy Bill highlights the need to have a diverse electricity generation mix in the future. This includes renewables, clean fossil fuel technology and nuclear.

TREASURY

Corporation Tax: EU Action

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the European Commission on proposals for a harmonised EU corporate tax base; and if he will make a statement. [208075]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his officials have regular discussions with the European Commission on a broad range of tax issues.

The Government are not in favour of a common consolidated corporate tax base as we are sceptical about both the principle and the practicalities.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the European Commission to make further proposals on a harmonised EU corporate tax base; and if he will make a statement. [208076]

Jane Kennedy: The European Commission has the right of initiative in proposing EU legislation. The publication of legislative proposals, including the timing of any proposal, are matters for them.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget of each Minister in his Department is for entertainment in 2008-09. [202086]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Treasury Ministers are not allocated a budget purely for entertainment. Such spending would form part of their conference and hospitality budgets covering internal and external conferences, catering and meeting refreshments.

The conference and hospitality budgets for each minister in 2008-09 are as follows:

	£
Chancellor	25,000
Chief Secretary	5,000
Exchequer Secretary	2,500
Economic Secretary	4,500
Financial Secretary	1,500

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the effects of the increase in excise duty on certain vehicles in the 2009-10 financial year, with particular reference to the effects on the retail value of such vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [206123]

Angela Eagle: Budget 2008 reformed the VED structure to strengthen the environmental incentive to develop and purchase fuel-efficient cars, as well as to ensure that existing cars that should pay VED that is more closely related to the level of carbon dioxide that is emitted.

The Government took into account a number of factors, including the social, economic and environmental impact of changes to VED, before announcing these changes.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Financial Secretary's statement of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1470, on vehicle excise duty (1) what his Department's definition of low income is; and if he will make a statement; [207112]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of low-income households which have bought cars in band (i) A, (ii) B, (iii) C, (iv) D, (v) E, (vi) G; and if he will make a statement. [207115]

Angela Eagle: There are numerous definitions of what constitutes a low-income household, and the Government do not collect data from drivers when purchasing tax discs according to their household income.

However, the best available relevant data suggests:

around half of households in the lowest 20 per cent. of incomes do not pay vehicle excise duty at all (Expenditure and Food Survey);

where lower income households do own a car, they are more likely to own a pre-2001 car, for which the maximum VED rate will be £200 in 2009, as opposed to the maximum VED rate of £440 for post-2001 cars; and

on the income breakdown recorded in the DfT's National Transport Survey, of new cars sampled between 2004 and 2006, of all households sampled with incomes less than £15,000, 41 per cent. had cars in current VED bands B or C. Of households with incomes less than £20,000, 40 per cent. had cars in VED bands B or C. This compares with the overall average for all cars, of 31 per cent. in VED bands B or C.

Gift Aid

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of take-up of Gift Aid tax relief was assumed in the projected current receipts for 2008-09 contained in the 2008 Red Book. [208489]

Jane Kennedy: The Red Book estimates of current receipts for income tax in 2008-09 allow for both Gift Aid basic rate repayments to charities (£0.9 billion) and higher rate relief to donors who are higher rate taxpayers (£0.2 billion).

Housing: Prices

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of *(a)* the likely trend in house prices over the next 12 months and *(b)* the impact of that trend on the United Kingdom economy. [207660]

Angela Eagle: The Government included a discussion of house price prospects in paragraphs B.69 and B.70 of the 2008 Financial Statement and Budget Report (HC 388). Box B7 of the same document discusses the relationship between house prices and consumer spending.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the savings in payments of *(a)* council tax benefit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* pension credit that will arise as a result of the increase in the personal allowance for income tax announced on 13 May 2008. [207966]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The increase in personal allowances will primarily affect housing and council tax benefit recipients who are in work. The number of in-work recipients of housing benefit is relatively small—around 300,000 for the last year of published data—and not all of these people will be taxpayers.

The personal allowance change can only affect pension credit where someone aged under 65 is part of a claim, and as with housing and council tax benefit, not all these people will be taxpayers. Pensioners aged 65 or over normally have a five-year assessed income period (AIP), meaning they do not need to report changes to their retirement provision (income from capital, annuities or pension) that occur within those five years. Couples where one pensioner is over 65 and their partner under 65 are also eligible for an AIP. Overall therefore the effect of the increased personal allowance in 2008-09 is very small.

The combined savings from these benefits is therefore both modest in relation to the cost of the increased allowance, at around £30 million, and uncertain. A breakdown between benefits is not possible because of the small size of the effects and the associated uncertainties.

Pornography: Children

Mrs. James: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much child pornography was seized under section 139(1) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [208567]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of items of child pornographic material seized by HM Revenue and Customs in the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 appears at page 73 and page 78 of their respective annual reports.

VAT: Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a reduced rate of VAT applies to the installation of external cladding on houses; and if he will make a statement. [207400]

Jane Kennedy: VAT is not chargeable on work carried out in the course of the construction of new housing. A reduced rate of VAT of 5 per cent. is available for the installation of external cladding on existing houses if the primary purpose of the work is to insulate the walls. The standard rate of VAT of 17.5 per cent. generally applies to all other installations of external cladding.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans to apply a reduced rate of VAT for the installation of *(a)* double or triple glazing and *(b)* energy efficient boilers; and if he will make a statement; [207401]

(2) whether he plans to apply a reduced rate of VAT on retail sales of *(a)* energy efficient lightbulbs, *(b)* insulation and *(c)* other energy saving products for self installation; and if he will make a statement. [207402]

Jane Kennedy: The availability of VAT reduced rates is governed by the European VAT agreements, signed by successive governments. The Government is making the case at EU level for more widespread application of reduced VAT rates to energy-saving and energy efficient products.

Where reduced rates are available under European VAT rules, these have been applied where they provide the most cost-effective and well-targeted support for the Government's environmental objectives. For example, a 5 per cent. reduced rate applies to the installation of boilers that are designed to be fuelled solely by wood, straw and other vegetal matter; and to certain grant-funded installations of other boilers and heating appliances.

Vulture Funds: Taxation

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax revenue collected from vulture funds registered in the UK in each of the last six years; and if he will make a statement. [208490]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make a statement on the interaction of refunded work expenses and the assessment of a person's eligibility for working tax credits; [207385]

(2) whether expenses incurred and refunded as part of a job are counted as income when assessing yearly earnings in order to award tax credits; [207386]

(3) what procedures are in place to assist people who wish to claim tax credits based on their yearly earnings but also have refunded expenses detailed on their P60s which may be misinterpreted as income. [207387]

Jane Kennedy: When claiming the child and working tax credits, individuals generally have to report all income of a tax year which is taken into account for income tax purposes, including earnings and taxable expenses from employment. However, individuals are entitled to deduct from their employment income for tax credit purposes the amount of those expenses that are allowable for tax purposes.

TRANSPORT

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) her Department and (ii) the agencies for which she is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206792]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The central Department and its agencies had fewer than five apprenticeship schemes *(a)* during 2007. In line with our policy, the Department cannot provide the actual figure as we would like to protect the identities of the individual(s) concerned.

The central Department and its agencies had no advanced apprenticeship scheme *(b)* participants during the same period.

Aviation: Chilterns

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many additional households in and around the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be overflown by flights at 3,000 feet as a result of the Luton Airport flight path changes proposed by National Air Traffic Services; [203294]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of people living in the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty who will be affected adversely by the proposed National Air Traffic Services' changes to Luton Airport flight paths; and if she will make a statement; [203295]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the objections by the Chilterns Conservation Board to the proposed changes to Luton Airport flight paths; and if she will make a statement; [203328]

(4) what environmental guidance her Department has provided to the National Air Traffic Services and the Civil Aviation Authority on the protection of the tranquillity of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty during the current consultation on the Luton, Heathrow and Stansted airport flight paths. [203329]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It would be premature for the Department to offer comment on any airspace change proposal while it is subject to consultation under the independent Airspace Change Process.

Airspace planning and regulation is the responsibility of the independent Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The process for making changes to airspace is governed by the CAA's Airspace Change Process. Under this process it is for airspace change sponsors to develop and consult upon proposals. Detailed guidance is given on what impacts are to be taken into account, how they should be measured and who should be consulted.

Informed by the consultation, the airspace change sponsor will submit the proposal to the CAA's Directorate of Airspace Policy for assessment against regulatory requirements. In determining whether to accept or reject a proposal, the CAA's process reflects the Secretary of State's Directions and Guidance to the CAA on the exercise of its statutory duties and environmental objectives.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the specifications are of the National Air Traffic Services model for estimating aircraft emissions; [206743]

(2) what percentage of Terminal Control North movements originated or terminated at UK airports or airfields in the latest period for which figures are available; [206744]

(3) what forecast her Department has made of *(a)* average daily and *(b)* the total number of air traffic movements in Terminal Control North airspace in 2014; [206745]

(4) what the *(a)* average daily and *(b)* total number of air traffic movements in Terminal Control North airspace was in the latest year for which figures are available; [206746]

(5) what her Department's assessment is of the merits of streaming aircraft arriving into Terminal Control North to obviate holds; [206777]

(6) if her Department will publish the details of the model agreed with National Air Traffic Services for estimating aircraft emissions in respect of the Terminal Control North proposed changes to airspace; [206778]

(7) how population counts under the proposed Terminal Control North aircraft holds have been calculated. [206779]

Jim Fitzpatrick: These are operational matters for NATS, the air navigation service provider, in connection with their ongoing Terminal Control North airspace change consultation under the terms of the independent Civil Aviation Authority's Airspace Change Process. I refer the hon. Member to my answer to his questions today (UIN 205327). I have re-directed other appropriate matters to the chief executive of NATS.

Aviation: Noise

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment her Department has made of the relative perception of aircraft noise in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* urban areas; [205327]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the viability of routing aircraft bound for Stansted over trunk roads such as the A14 to minimise noise nuisance; [205328]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the viability of alternating the location of aircraft stacks for Stansted in order to achieve a more equitable distribution of related noise disturbance; [205329]

(4) what assessment her Department has made of the viability of stacking aircraft bound for Stansted over the sea to minimise noise nuisance. [205330]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It would be premature for this Department to offer comment on any airspace change proposal while it is subject to consultation under the independent Airspace Change Process.

Airspace planning and regulation is the responsibility of the independent Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The process for making changes to airspace is governed by the CAA's Airspace Change Process. Under this process it is for airspace change sponsors, for example NATS, to develop and consult upon proposals. Detailed CAA guidance (CAP 725) is given on what impacts are to be taken into account, advice on methods to assess the relative impact of changes and who should be consulted. This guidance is available on the CAA's website.

Informed by the consultation, the airspace change sponsor will submit the proposal to the CAA's Directorate of Airspace Policy for assessment against regulatory requirements. In determining whether to accept or reject a proposal, the CAA's process reflects the Secretary of State's Directions and Guidance to the CAA on the exercise of its statutory duties and environmental objectives. This includes guidance on taking into account the impacts of routes both over heavily populated areas and over rural areas.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will review the funding arrangements of the national bus concessionary fares scheme to ensure that local authorities are not required to meet any local shortfall; and what methodology was used to calculate the grant to travel concession authorities in 2008-09 for the scheme. [207510]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have no immediate plans to review the current funding arrangements for concessionary travel and remain confident that there is sufficient funding in aggregate to meet the costs of the statutory minimum concession. We will of course be monitoring the impact of the new concession closely.

From 2008-09 the Government are providing additional funding for the new England-wide statutory concession of £212 million, £217 million and £223 million through a special grant. The Department consulted local authorities and others on funding in autumn 2007. Over 200 responses were received. The special grant distribution option chosen was the most popular. The Government are confident that the extra funding is sufficient to meet the total cost to local authorities, as it is based on generous assumptions around fares, pass take-up, extra journeys and additional costs.

The methodology to calculate the special grant was set out in special grant report no. 129, discussed in Parliament on 25 March, and available from the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205899]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Central Department *(a)* recorded a nil response in relation to the above, however our agencies *(b)* responded as follows:

(b) Agencies 2005-07

	Number
(i) Breach of data protection requirements	
Disciplined	[1]—
Dismissed	[1]—
(ii) Inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data	
Disciplined	9
Dismissed	8

[1] The Department is unable to provide figures in these instances as fewer than five instances were recorded. In these circumstances, information is withheld in the interests of protection of individuals' identities.

Note:

For the same reason, rather than report on 2005, 2006 and 2007 individually, the data has been suppressed into a single period, "2005-07".

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Correspondence

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1840-41W, on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: correspondence, how many complaints her Department has received about items going missing in the post. [207839]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DVLA records show that the number of complaints received by persons who claim that they have not received an item of post dispatched to them by DVLA is:

	Number
2001	206
2002	239
2003	242
2004	434
2005	566
2006	562
2007	553
2008[1]	107

[1] The 2008 figure is for January to March.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the average fine imposed for the offence of driving without insurance was in the latest period for which figures are available; [207418]

(2) how many people aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 21 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 40, *(d)* 41 to 50 *(e)* 51 to 60, *(f)* 61 to 70, *(g)* 71 to 80 and *(h)* over 80 years were convicted for driving without insurance in the last three years for which figures are available. [207420]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice relates to the offence of 'use of a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks'. In 2006 (latest available) the average fine imposed for the offence was £185.

The following table provides data on total findings of guilt for the offence by age group of offender from 2004 to 2006 (latest available).

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], by age group of offender, England and Wales, 2004-06

Number of offences

		Age groups							
	All ages	*10 to 20*	*21 to 30[2]*	*31 to 40*	*41- to 50*	*51 to 60*	*61 to 70*	*71- to 0*	*81 and over*
2004	322,816	74,021	160,236	59,655	21,945	5,502	1,198	207	52
2005	289,345	61,223	147,423	52,370	21,485	5,430	1,156	194	64
2006	267,670	50,562	136,850	50,139	22,504	5,987	1,315	239	74

[1] Offence under section 143(2) Road Traffic Act 1988.

[2] Default age of 25 recorded when age not known.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Driving Tests

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving test centres her Department plans to relocate in the next 12 months; what the reason is for relocation in each case; and if she will make a statement. [207132]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency plans to relocate 54 driving test centres in the next 12 months. The test centres and the reason for relocation are shown in the following table.

Driving Test Centre	*Reason for relocation*	*Relocating to*
Aberdeen	MPTC Programme	Aberdeen MPTC
Ayr	MPTC Programme	Ayr MPTC
Basingstoke	MPTC Programme	Farnborough MPTC
Bexleyheath	MPTC Programme	Erith Multi Purpose Test Centre (MPTC)
Blackburn	MPTC Programme	Blackburn MPTC
Brighton	MPTC Programme	Burgess Hill MPTC
Burton On Trent	MPTC Programme	Burton on Trent MPTC

Driving Test Centre	*Reason for relocation*	*Relocating to*
Camborne L	MPTC Programme	Redruth MPTC
Carlisle	MPTC Programme	Carlisle MPTC
Chester	MPTC Programme	Chester MPTC
Cupar	MPTC Programme	Kirkcaldy MPTC
Dundee	MPTC Programme	Dundee MPTC
Ellesmere Port	MPTC Programme	Chester MPTC
Farnborough	MPTC Programme	Farnborough MPTC
Fort William	Casual hire terminated by landlord	Proposed new site in Fort William
Gedling	MPTC Programme	Colwick MPTC
Gillingham	MPTC Programme	Gillingham MPTC
Gosport	MPTC Programme	Lee on Solent (Farehem) MPTC
Gravesend	MPTC Programme	Gillingham MPTC
Haverfordwest	MPTC Programme	Haverfordwest MPTC
Hayes	MPTC Programme	Uxbridge MPTC
Herne Bay	MPTC Programme	Thanet Way MPTC
Hove	MPTC Programme	Burgess Hill MPTC
Inverness	MPTC Programme	Inverness MPTC
Kettering	MPTC Programme	Kettering MPTC
Kidderminster	Property is in very poor condition	Lower Gornal
Kings Lynn	MPTC Programme	Kings Lynn MPTC
Kirkcaldy	MPTC Programme	Kirkcaldy MPTC
Leicester Welford Road	MPTC Programme	Wigston MPTC
Lincoln	MPTC Programme	Lincoln MPTC
Minehead	MPTC Programme	Taunton MPTC
Norwich	MPTC Programme	Norwich MPTC
Pembroke Dock	MPTC Programme	Haverfordwest MPTC
Penzance	MPTC Programme	Redruth MPTC
Peterborough	MPTC Programme	Peterborough MPTC
Plymouth	MPTC Programme	Plymouth MPTC
Reading LGV	MPTC Programme	Greenham Common MPTC
Sheffield - Handsworth	Property is in poor condition and operational problems re test routes	Proposed new site in Sheffield
Shirley	MPTC Programme	Garretts Green MPTC
Southend	MPTC Programme	Basildon MPTC
Spalding	MPTC Programme	Peterborough MPTC
Sunderland	Property is in poor condition and operational problems re test routes	Proposed new site in Sunderland
Sutton-in-Ashfield	Property is in poor condition and operational problems re test routes	Proposed new site in Sutton-in-Ashfield
Swansea	MPTC Programme	Swansea MPTC
Swindon	MPTC Programme	Swindon MPTC
Taunton	MPTC Programme	Taunton MPTC
Trowbridge	Lease break	Existing DTC at Chippenham
Warrington	MPTC Programme	St Helens MPTC
Washwood Heath	MPTC Programme	Garretts Green MPTC
Wellingborough	MPTC Programme	Kettering MPTC
West Bridgford	MPTC Programme	Colwick MPTC
Wisbech	MPTC Programme	Kings Lynn MPTC
Wolverhampton	MPTC Programme	Wolverhampton MPTC
York	Lease expiry and landlord will not renew	Proposed new site in York

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving test centres have been closed in each of the last five years; and what the reason for closure was in each case. [207133]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency has closed 11 driving test centres in the last five years. The reason for the closure of each centre is shown in the table.

	Driving Test Centre	*Reason for closure*
2004	Newport (Gwent)	Lease terminated by the landlord.
2004	Croydon LGV	Lease terminated by the landlord.
2005	Wanstead (Nightingale Lane)	Temporary accommodation while we did repair work on our other building.
2005	Wallington Old Town Hall	Lease terminated by the landlord under the landlord and tenant Act 1954.

	Driving Test Centre	*Reason for closure*
2006	Wishaw	Vacated permanent accommodation due to MOTO termination. Relocated to short-term accommodation in 2006.
2006	Birmingham (Quinton)	Landlord (Ofcom) served notice on DSA, terminating the MOTO in place
2007	Thornaby	The condition of the building had deteriorated to an unacceptable level. Tests were relocated to the Darlington Multi Purpose Test Centre (MPTC), Middlesborough and Hartlepool.
2007	Glasgow Cowglen	The only tests conducted here were for Approved Driving Instructors. Offices were used one day a month which did not make economic sense.
2007	Wrexham	Lease expiry. Landlord would not renew as redeveloping site. Replacement being sought.
2007	Hessle	Co-located at Hull MPTC
2008	Gainsborough	Co-located at Scunthorpe MPTC

MOTO is a 'Memorandum of terms of occupation'—an informal agreement with another Government Department.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving test centres have been relocated in each of the last five years; and what the reason for relocation was in each case. [207134]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency has relocated a total of 43 driving test centres in the last five years. The test centre and the reason for relocation are shown in the following table.

	Driving test centre	*Reason for relocation*	*Relocated to*
2002	Glasgow Shawbridge	Move to better accommodation locally	Glasgow, Mosspark
2003	Whitby	Move to better accommodation locally	Whitby
2003	Oswestry, Salop Road	Move to better accommodation locally	Oswestry, Maesbury Road
2003	Shrewsbury, Bell Lane	Move to better accommodation locally	Shrewsbury, Yeomanry Road
2004	Coventry Holyhead Road	Move to better accommodation locally	Coventry, Bayton Road
2004	Coventry Mason Road	Move to better accommodation locally	Coventry, Bayton Road
2004	Aberdeen, Clunie	Move to better accommodation locally	Aberdeen, Altens
2004	Crieff, King Street	Move to better accommodation locally	Crieff, Broich Road
2004	Dingwall	Move to better accommodation locally	Alness
2004	Dunfermline	Move to better accommodation locally	Dunfermline, Estania
2004	Glasgow, Shettleston	Move to better accommodation locally	Glasgow Baillieston
2004	Inverness, Torvean Avenue	Move to better accommodation locally	Inverness, Cradlehall
2004	Kenton Bar	Move to better accommodation locally	Newcastle, Elswick
2004	Preston, Cottam Lane	Move to better accommodation locally	Preston, Nelson Court
2004	Rochdale	Move to better accommodation locally	Rochdale, Blueberry Business Park
2004	Tain	Move to better accommodation locally	Alness
2005	Cannock, North Street	Move to better accommodation locally	Cannock, Ridings Park
2005	Edinburgh Parkhead	Traffic in area became too busy so moved to better accommodation locally	Edinburgh, Currie
2005	Hartlepool	Lease expiry, move to alternative accommodation locally	Hartlepool
2005	Grays	Move to better accommodation locally	Tilbury
2006	Aldershot	Disposal of site by MOD	Farnborough
2006	Cleethorpes	Move to better accommodation locally	Great Grimsby
2006	Gloucester	MPTC Programme	Gloucester MPTC
2006	Thornaby Brus House	Lease expiry and property to be demolished	Thornaby Appleby House
2006	Shrewsbury, Yeomanry Road	MPTC Programme	Shrewsbury MPTC
2007	Edinburgh Joppa	MPTC Programme	Musselburgh MPTC
2007	Exeter	MPTC Programme	Exeter MPTC
2007	Gateshead	MPTC Programme	Gateshead MPTC
2007	Glasgow, Mosspark	MPTC Programme	Glasgow MPTC
2007	Hull	MPTC Programme	Hull MPTC
2007	Ipswich, LGV	MPTC Programme	Ipswich MPTC
2007	Ipswich, Woodbridge Road	MPTC Programme	Ipswich MPTC
2007	Peterhead	Move to better accommodation locally	Peterhead
2007	Rotherham	MPTC Programme	Rotherham MPTC
2007	Rugby	Move to better accommodation locally	Rugby
2007	Sidcup	Move to better accommodation locally	Sidcup
2007	Skegness	Move to better accommodation locally	Skegness
2007	Winchmore Hill	MPTC Programme	Enfield MPTC
2007	Worksop	Move to better accommodation locally	Worksop

	Driving test centre	*Reason for relocation*	*Relocated to*
2008	Cwmbran	MPTC Programme	Newport MPTC
2008	Darlington	MPTC Programme	Darlington MPTC
2008	Scunthorpe	MPTC Programme	Scunthorpe MPTC
2008	St. Helens	MPTC Programme	St. Helens MPTC

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to ensure that newly-qualified drivers receive instruction from their driving test examiner on the dangers of *(a)* driving too fast and *(b)* driving after drinking alcohol. [208245]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The role of the examiner at the practical test is to assess whether a candidate has demonstrated the necessary skills and behaviour to be licensed to drive unsupervised. Our national driving test also includes an assessment of knowledge and understanding relating to safe driving and an assessment of hazard-perception skills undertaken as a computer-based test.

Effective assessment is a vital element in maintaining standards, but must be supported by learning and motivation. Research shows that driving too fast and driving after drinking alcohol are two of the most dangerous behaviours which are proven to contribute to fatal and serious road accidents. Our policy is to make youngsters aware of these dangers before they reach the age at which they can apply for a provisional driving licence and for those messages to be continuously repeated throughout the learning to drive process and subsequently.

The dangers of speeding and drink driving are two of the key messages promoted through the Department's Think! Campaign and by local authority Road Safety Officers and other road safety delivery partners involved in road safety education. Also, as part of our Learning to Drive proposals aimed at reducing the number of newly qualified drivers killed or seriously injured on our roads, it is proposed to introduce a pre-driver qualification in safe road use. This foundation certificate, which would be optional from age 14, would provide a further opportunity to raise awareness of these and other dangerous behaviours before learner drivers get behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many persons aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 21 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 40, *(d)* 41 to 50, *(e)* 51 to 60, *(f)* 61 to 70, *(g)* 71 to 80 years and *(h)* over 80 years hold driving licences. [207419]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table gives the estimated number of full driving licence holders in Great Britain in 2006 for the age groups specified, based on data from the National Travel Survey.

	Number of licence holders (millions)
17-20 years	1.1
21-30 years	5.1
31-40 years	7.1
41-50 years	7.0
51-60 years	6.0
61-70 years	4.2
71-80 years	2.3
81 years and over	0.7
All aged 17+	33.7
Unweighted sample size (individuals 17+)	17,345

Note:
Numbers may not add exactly due to rounding.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Humber Bridge Board on tolls on the Humber Bridge; and if she will make a statement. [207225]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Department for Transport officials met regularly with the Humber bridge board to discuss the revision of the Humber bridge debt interest rate which came into force on 19 June 2007. A copy of the new loan agreement was placed in the House Libraries at that time.

The revised debt interest rate covers the five year period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011 at which time the debt interest rate will be reviewed.

There have been no further discussions about the Humber bridge debt since 19 June 2007.

M1: Midlands

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the M1 motorway was closed in the Midlands on 15 May 2008; upon whose authority the road was closed; and for what reason a closure was deemed necessary. [207883]

Mr. Tom Harris: The northbound carriageway of the M1 motorway was closed at junction 18 because a load had been shed from a goods vehicle. The carriageway was closed at 07.22 hours at the request, and on the authority, of the Highways Agency's traffic officer on the scene.

Mersey Tunnel: Tolls

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider the merits of introducing legislation to transfer responsibility for Mersey Tunnel toll charges to her Department. [207353]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has no plans to take over responsibility for Mersey Tunnel tolls.

Midland Main Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will provide further carriages for trains on the Midland Main Line services run by East Midlands Trains through Kettering. [208185]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are no current plans to provide additional carriages for trains on the midland mainline services run by East Midlands Trains through Kettering.

Motorways: Road Traffic Control

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation her Department held with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead on the implementation of the ramp metering scheme at Junction 8/9 of the M4 at Maidenhead. [208087]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has been in communication with stakeholders at a local level for all ramp metering sites implemented during 2007-08, including the scheme at junction 8/9 on the M4.

Meetings were arranged with key individuals from key local agencies that would have an interest or may be concerned around any impact as a result of the new schemes. These meetings included presentations, Q and A feedback as well as access to information leaflets for wider cascading internally to all staff. A self explanatory publicity video was also shown.

Liaison took place between Highways Agency representatives and the following stakeholders who have jurisdiction in the Royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead locality:

Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council (28 November 2007—Head of Highways Engineering)

Thames Valley Police (29 November 2007—Traffic Management Teams)

Royal Berkshire Ambulance Trust (27 November 2007—Emergency Services Directorate)

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services (28 November 2007—Chief Fire Officer)

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints her Department has received on the operation of ramp metering schemes. [208184]

Mr. Tom Harris: There have been 36 inquiries. 10 of which were categorised as complaints and 26 as requests for information.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the *(a)* volume and *(b)* value of vehicle fuel that would be saved in a 12-month period if the speed limit were always observed on motorways. [208364]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is difficult to make accurate estimates of these fuel and cost savings without more robust data on both detected and undetected motorway speeding.

Analysis for the Climate Change Programme Review (CCPR) estimated the potential impact of 100 per cent. compliance to the 70 mph speed limit on motorways and dual carriageways. The analysis estimated that 2.1 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent would be saved over a 12 month period, equating to around 0.8 billion litres of road fuel. Assuming pump prices of 116p per litre (petrol) and 129p per litre (diesel), from an oil price of around $120-$125 per barrel, the value of the fuel saving would be £1 billion. However, this fuel saving would only occur at significant costs in enforcing the speed limit.

Enforcement of motorway speed limits does save fuel, but enforcement is done primarily for road safety reasons.

Pollution: Merseyside

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her latest estimate is of levels of traffic pollution in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* the vicinity of the Dartford Crossing. [207365]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no single figure available for each of the two areas. Local air pollutants vary according to the pollutant in question, the time of day and the precise location. The Department for Transport does not hold centrally the measurements recorded at the various monitoring locations. Data from the UK automatic air quality monitoring network can be accessed via the National Air Quality Information Archive (www.airquality.co.uk). Further monitoring is also undertaken by local authorities and these can often be accessed via the websites of the relevant local authorities. For example, in the case of Liverpool graphs showing levels of the four main pollutants over the previous seven days at a number of sites are available from the city council website.

Railways: Cumbria

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with BRB (Residuary) Ltd on the consultation draft of the Route Utilisation Strategy for Lancashire and Cumbria, published by Network Rail. [207448]

Mr. Tom Harris: Ministers have regular discussions with BRB (Residuary) Ltd on a range of issues. Network Rail is responsible for developing Route Utilisation Strategies and BRB consult with Network Rail prior to making any decisions on the disposal of its property assets. These consultations are carried out in accordance with the guidance that the Government announced to Parliament in July 2007.

Railways: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Designated Community Rail Fund is part of the £15 billion of funding for rail announced in her 2007 Rail White Paper. [207575]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Designated Community Rail Fund is initially for the year 2008-09 which falls outside of the period covered by the White Paper. It is not, therefore, part of the £15 billion.

Railways: Trent Valley

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the double rail tracking project on the Trent Valley section of the West Coast Main Line to be completed. [207596]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport expects four tracking of the West Coast Main Line in the Trent Valley area to be ready for the December 2008 timetable to operate on schedule.

Roads: Accidents

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people of each sex were killed in car accidents in Hampshire where at least one of the drivers involved was aged 21 years or under in each year since 1997. [207828]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of (a) males and (b) females killed in reported personal injury road accidents in Hampshire which involved at least one car driver aged 21 years or under in 1997 to 2006 are shown in the following table:

	Number of fatalities	
	Male	*Female*
1997	10	1
1998	9	2
1999	14	6
2000	14	4
2001	9	3
2002	12	2
2003	8	4
2004	12	6
2005	12	3
2006	6	3

Roads: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Highways Agency road building contracts have been awarded to a construction company under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading. [205104]

Mr. Tom Harris: The agency has 22 extant road construction or maintenance contracts that were awarded to five of the companies currently under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading in relation to potential bid-rigging in the construction sector. These companies are Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Ltd., Carillion Construction Ltd., Interserve Project Services, Morgan Est and Galliford-Try (Morrison).

In most cases, the agency's awards have been to subsidiaries or sister organisations of these companies or operating units that fall under the same parent organisation.

The procurement processes adopted by the agency have a range of steps built-in to minimise the risk of anti-competitive behaviour by contractors. These fully reflect guidance as published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and indeed exceed it in most cases. The main method of mitigating the risk of anti-competitive behaviour is to use a quality: price based assessment of all major tenders. The quality aspect is usually worth in excess of 70 per cent. of the total marks available. These contract specific quality statements cannot be rigged collusively as that would be obvious to those assessing such bids.

Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2890W, on Caribbean: royal visits, what the cost was of the hire of the yacht Leander by HRH the Prince of Wales during his official visit to the Caribbean; and how much was incurred in *(a)* crew hire, *(b)* fuel, *(c)* provisions and *(d)* other related costs. [207683]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall visited the Caribbean on an official FCO visit from 3 to 14 March. The visit involved travelling to a number of countries in the area. In considering travel options, the royal household is required under the grant in aid to have regard to a number of criteria including value for money. In this particular case, the household considered a number of options. They concluded that the combination of scheduled flights to and from the Caribbean combined with a chartered boat represented the best value for money. In addition to producing significant savings on travel costs, the use of a boat also resulted in a significant saving on accommodation costs and a reduced carbon footprint. The cost of chartering the Leander was £210,000. This included crew hire and fuel. In addition £10,176 was spent on provisions for those staying aboard the Leander.

The travel arrangements were endorsed by both the Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the basis that they represented best value for money.

Shipping: Freight

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many freight facilities grants were provided to waterborne freight operators in each year since 2000; and what the value of such grants was in each year. [207541]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The freight facilities grants that have been awarded to support shifting of freight from road to water since 2000 are as follows:

	Number of grants	*Value of grants (1)*
2000	6	5,019,779
2001	7	3,650,266
2002	9	13,325,654
2003	7	5,755,319
2004	2	5,028,165
2005	2	1,319,653
2006	4	1,301,317
2007	1	1,370,000

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many freight facilities grants were partially or fully repaid by waterborne freight operators as a result of *(a)* the proposed scheme failing to operate, *(b)* traffic passing through the facility failing to match the traffic commitment and *(c)* the grantee failing to provide information on the annual traffic carried through the grant aided facility in each year since 2000. [207542]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Between 2000 and 2007 the Department for Transport has partially recovered two grants only for failing to deliver the traffic commitment the grantees had undertaken.

One of the grants was for £1,021,187 awarded in 2000 and £244,620 was recovered in 2007. The other grant was for £503,032 awarded in 2002 and £472,471 was recovered in 2005.

Skipton to Colne Railway Line

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received about the proposed disposal of the section of trackbed between Colne and Foulridge on the former Skipton to Colne railway route. [207449]

Mr. Tom Harris: BRB (Residuary) Ltd consulted on the future of their disused track bed between Colne and Foulridge in 2007 in accordance with the guidance that Government announced to Parliament in July 2007. A number of representations were received by the company as a result.

Following that consultation, the autonomous Property Review Group agreed that the property should be offered for sale to Lancashire county council who have protected the route for transport in their Joint Lancashire Structure Plan.

Speed Limits: Fines

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was imposed in fines for speeding detected by speed cameras in *(a)* Humberside and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [207224]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department only holds information about cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales which ended on 31 March 2007. The amount imposed in penalties for offences detected by speed and red light cameras in Humberside and the East Riding of Yorkshire during the programme's final year was £2,169,840. The Department does not hold details of the split between fines for speeding and those for contravention of a red light. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The amount imposed in speeding fines since that time will therefore be a matter for the Humberside Safety Camera Partnership.

Thames Gateway Bridge

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with Transport for London on the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge. [207363]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Department for Transport officials have regular discussions with Transport for London regarding the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge, but there have been no recent discussions at ministerial level.

Transport

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when her Department's notes, LTN 1/04 and LTN 2/04, will be published; [206759]

(2) when her Department's cycling infrastructure design document will be published. [206760]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Publication of Cycling Infrastructure Design is planned for this summer. We are reviewing the need for LTNs 1/04 and 2/04 in light of the extended scope of the CID document since consultation.

Waterloo Station

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the conversion of the Eurostar platforms at Waterloo for use by suburban trains to be completed; and if she will make a statement. [207333]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is primarily the railway infrastructure outside Waterloo that limits the number of trains that can use the station rather than the number of platforms. Therefore the need is to run longer trains rather than more trains. So we are planning a large scheme to make sufficient platforms long enough to accommodate 10 and 12 car trains and to modify the junction layout on the approaches to the station. Such a scheme would allow the use of up to 50 per cent. longer trains than currently use the short platforms and would result in a large increase in capacity. The scheme also presents opportunities at Waterloo International to reconfigure the passenger circulation space and the interchange with other transport modes, and to better integrate the station into the surrounding area. Such an ambitious scheme requires very detailed planning to make the most of this unique opportunity.

In order to make the best use of the Waterloo International facility in the meantime, the Department is working closely with Network Rail and SSWT to finalise the design and costs of the partial conversion of Waterloo International to accommodate some domestic services. Therefore some services could use platform 20 of Waterloo International from the timetable change date in December 2008.

Following on from this, and linked to the delivery of the HLOS strategy and timescales, there will be a phased programme to lengthen services on the South Western network with Windsor line services extended to 10 cars and Reading line services extended to 12 cars. The 12 car Reading line services would utilise some of the Waterloo International platforms from 2010-12. For the next phase, the intention would be to extend mainline suburban services, (to destinations such as Shepperton, Hampton Court and Chessington), from eight to 10 cars. However, this will require complex reconfiguration of the infrastructure on the approaches to the station. As a consequence of the reconfiguration works, Windsor and Reading line services are expected to utilise the available platforms in the Waterloo International terminal. This is expected to be from 2012-14.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Absenteeism

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of unauthorised school absences resulting from family holidays taken in term-time. [206933]

Kevin Brennan: Our policy is to discourage all avoidable absence, including term-time holidays, because of the increased risk of underachievement or harm to children. We trust head teachers to judge whether any given absence is justified, such as a family crisis or when a parent's employer cannot or will not release them during normal school holidays. Head teachers can grant up to 10 days' holiday absence from school for special reasons, and longer periods in exceptional circumstances.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206838]

Kevin Brennan: In the Department, in the most recent financial year (2007/08), there were 23 people completing advanced apprenticeships and five people completing apprenticeships.

The Department has no agencies.

Child Care: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many foster care placements there were in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in 2007; [207124]

(2) how many children were adopted in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in 2007. [207125]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 21 May 2008]:* The following information is taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007". The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

The number of looked-after children in foster care placements at 31 March 2007 in *(a)* Greater London was 7,950 and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley was 170.

The number of children looked after that were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2007 in *(a)* Greater London was 490 and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley was five.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of daycare settings in the *(a)* 15 per cent. most deprived and *(b)* 15 per cent. least deprived local authorities were awarded ratings of inadequate following an Ofsted inspection for each year for which figures are available. [206163]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The rating of regulated childcare is a matter for Ofsted. The DCSF does not have this statistical information. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert dated 4 June 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as her majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Our source for identifying the most and least deprived local authorities is the Government's 'Indices of Deprivation 2007' (an index published once every three years), as taken from the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government www.communities.gov.uk. The deprivation index for each of three available inspection years ahs been used to identify providers falling into both the 15 per cent. most and least deprived local authorities. This information is presented in Table A.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the right hon. Beverley Hughes, MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Table A: Inspection data for day care providers between 1 April 2005 and 31 march 2008

	Inspections between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006				Inspections between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007			
LA Deprivation Level	Total day care at 1 April 2006	Total inspected 2005-06	Total inspected 2005-06 inadequate	Proportion inadequate 2005-06	Total day care at 1 April 2007	Total inspected 2006-07	Total inspected 2006-07 inadequate	Proportion inadequate 2007-08
15% least deprived	6,985	1,762	130	7.4%	6,910	2,476	152	61.%
15% most deprived	3,396	814	97	11.9%	3,434	1,083	98	9.9%

	Inspections between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008			
LA Deprivation Level	Total Day care at 1 April 2008	Total inspected 2007-08	Total inspected 2007-08 inadequate	Proportion inadequate 2007-08
15% least deprived	6,913	2,549	143	5.6%
15% most deprived	3,420	1,219	102	8.4%

Notes:
All inspection data from the regulatory support application (RSA) database as of 1 April 2008. Active provider data taken from the RSA database as of 6 April 2006, 30 March 2007 and 1 April 2008 respectively. LA deprivation level based on 'Indices of Deprivation 2007' on the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government (www.communities.gov.uk). The majority of the data underpinning the 'Indices of Deprivation 2007' represents 2005 although some data covers a number of years, for example an average of 2003-05.

Children: Disadvantaged

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much will be made available to train the additional 5,000 practitioners to deliver outreach services under Chapter One of the Children's Plan; and what mechanism will be used to determine eligibility for this funding. [208273]

Beverley Hughes: Rather than committing the Department to funding training of an additional 5,000 practitioners, the Children's Plan states that we will improve outreach services by establishing core principles and standards for an effective and comprehensive outreach service supporting this with:

training materials and courses; and

providing additional funding for practitioners without other sources of funding.

This package will potentially enable some 5,000 practitioners to take up new training opportunities.

As stated in response to your named day reply (8 May 2008), the DGSF has now started the relevant work on outreach. This is a three-stage project which will take place between 2008 and 2011. Stage one, a scoping study to gather information on outreach services, is designed to inform how the additional funding for training on outreach should best be spent. Stages two and three, development of core principles, standards, materials and delivery of training, will follow between 2009-11. We are currently in the process of commissioning researchers to take forward the first stage scoping study.

Children: Writing

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities operate an Every Child a Writer Scheme. [207436]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* Every Child a Writer is a new programme, outlined in our Children's Plan in December 2007. Final decisions on which local authorities and which schools will be involved are yet to be made. It is likely that, from September 2008, we will pilot the programme in nine authorities, one in each region. Further announcements will be made in due course as the programme is launched.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208170]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has issued guidance to staff and other building occupants on switching off personal computers.

In November 2006 my Department introduced 'Nightwatchman' power management software to automatically shut down personal computers overnight and so reduce carbon emissions;

A communications campaign involving: the use of electronic messages at reception points on turning off unused equipment; articles in our Department's Internal magazine on how to save energy; and advice on our intranet on saving energy; have all helped to raise staff awareness of the need to conserve resources and become more energy efficient.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Families Without Fear project in Brent. [208430]

Beverley Hughes: "The Minster Centre—Families Without Fear" project received funding from the Strengthening Families Grant (SFG) programme (2005-08). An assessment of the effectiveness of this project, alongside all other SFG projects, will be made on receipt of its final report, which is due this month. All applicants in receipt of the SFG grant are required to demonstrate how they intend to share results and any products of their work with a wider audience.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost of an intensive supervision and surveillance programme is for a young offender. [208563]

Beverley Hughes: The average cost per young person of a six month Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programme is £8,500.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208133]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not currently record the amount of food waste that is generated at each of our buildings. This is included within our overall land fill statistics. Separate records are kept for all other waste streams that are recycled, for example paper, glass, plastics and cans. Discussions are underway with our catering and waste management providers as to how the DSGF can reduce the amount of food waste that is sent to landfill.

Further Education: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of 16-year-olds enrolled at a further education college is entitled to free school meals; and if he will make a statement; [207862]

(2) what proportion of 16-year-olds enrolled in a school sixth form is entitled to free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [207863]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table and relates to pupils in school sixth forms who are known to be eligible and are claiming their free school meal entitlement

The requested information for further education colleges is not collected centrally.

State funded secondary schools[1,2]: Number of pupils aged 16 in national curriculum year groups 12 to 14 by free school meal eligibility[3,4], England, as at January 2008 (provisional)

	Pupils aged 16 in year groups 12 to 14
Number of pupils[4]	201,330
Number of pupils known to be eligible for (and claiming) free school meals	11,200
Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for (and claiming) free school meals	5.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed,
[2] Includes local authority maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes pupils with sole and dual (main) registration.
[4] Age as at 31 August 2007.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Parents: Advisory Services

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of delivery of the extension of intensive phone-based support services under Chapter One of the Children's Plan; how large the service is; what its projected size is; what training will be provided for phone-based support services; and what the evidential basis was for the decision to expand the service. [208272]

Kevin Brennan: Parentline Plus is being funded £1.6 million over three years to deliver an expanded intensive phone-based support service. The current service which offers a series of weekly telephone appointments for callers who have complex and entrenched difficulties has been subject to two independent evaluations and has been proven effective. The new funding will allow for a pilot to test referrals from other agencies and professionals, such as CAFCASS and Parent Support Advisers. In total the service aims to reach up to 10,000 parents referred from Parentline and 25 local authorities over the three years. The service is provided by supervised parenting practitioners, who are trained to level 3 OCN and meet the National Occupational Standards for working with parents.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school-based parent support advisers are to be recruited in each of the next three years; and at what estimated cost as outlined in Chapter One of the Children's Plan. [208275]

Kevin Brennan: I announced a total of £33.5 million/£34.5 million/£34.5 million to be available to local authorities (LAs) for expansion of Parent Support Adviser (PSA) provision across all LAs over the three years 2008-11.

The number of posts to be funded within any area will be a matter for local judgment. It is for LAs determine to prioritise how and where the PSA resource is deployed taking into account local priorities and evidence of PSA effectiveness from the pilot work. In order to maximise the benefits of this new funding we expect LAs to concentrate the resource in those schools where there is a high level of need, not currently being addressed through other initiatives.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Respect parenting experts there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority; how these experts provide support for families; and what the evidential basis is for the decision to expand the network of Respect parenting experts. [208310]

Beverley Hughes: Funding has been made available for 77 Respect parenting experts in England, covering 77 district councils (within the 72 top tier local authorities). They are delivering structured parenting programmes to the parents of families exhibiting antisocial behaviour, or at risk of doing so.

Evidence shows that parenting programmes can improve parenting skills and help parents manage their children's behaviour. A review of parenting programmes by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence show significant long-term effects in improving children's behaviour. Given this strong evidence we have made a commitment in the Children's Plan to provide additional funding for at least one parenting expert in every local authority.

Parents: Public Participation

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people will be on the Parents' Panel; how they will be chosen; how he proposes to use the Panel in policy-making; and what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing the Panel. [208274]

Beverley Hughes: Our intention is that the Parents' Panel should comprise between 30-40 parents and carers of children aged 19 or under. We are in the midst of a competitive procurement exercise to appoint an external organisation with the right skills and expertise to run the panel. We aim to announce the successful organisation on 31 July. Their first task will be to recruit the parents, ensuring the panel is representing as far as is practicable, the national mix of parents in England.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the annual cost to the public purse of extending the universal early years entitlement of 12.5 hours a week to *(a)* two and *(b)* one and two-year-olds; and if he will make a statement. [206144]

Beverley Hughes: We announced in the Children's Plan, £100 million funding for a three-year extension to the current pilot to offer some early years provision to two-year-olds. The extended pilot will offer up to 15 hours of free provision to the most deprived two-year-olds living in around 60 pilot local authorities.

The pilot will allow us to evaluate clearly the benefits of a two-year-old offer for children and their parents.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the annual cost to the public purse of increasing the universal early years entitlement to 20 hours a week; and if he will make a statement. [206145]

Beverley Hughes: We are currently funding 32 pathfinders to explore the extension of the early years entitlement from 12.5 to 15 hours, delivered more flexibly than at present. In 2009, we will extend the free entitlement to 15 hours nationally for the 25 per cent. most deprived three and four year-olds in each local authority, and in 2010 we will make a universal offer of 15 hours of free provision a week to all three and four year-olds. We have made available £590 million for this extension over the CSR period.

We will consider any further extensions in the light of this pathfinder activity.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what per child early years grant was awarded to nurseries in each local authority in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [208048]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested.

Since April 2004 all three and four year-olds have been entitled to a free part-time early education place for 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, this offer will be extended from 12.5 to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

Table 1 provides information on the number of three and four year-olds taking up or benefiting from early education places for the years 2004-2008.

Table 1: Number of three and four year-olds taking up or benefiting from early education places [1, 2] by type of provider, England 2004-08—Position in January each year

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Private and voluntary providers[3]					
Number of children taking up early education places[4]	445,300[5]	432,800[5]	429,400[5]	446,900[5]	461,100
Percentage of population [6]	39	39	38	39	39
Number of children benefiting from some free early education[4]	388,600[7]	396,700[7]	401,800[8]	420,700[8]	437,000[8]
Percentage of population [6]	34	35	36	37	37
Actual number of children benefiting from some free early education[9]	n/a	n/a	—	n/a	413,100
Percentage of population [6]	n/a	n/a	—	n/a	35
Independent schools[10]					
Number of children taking up early education places[4]	54,700	52,000	50,100	50,500	52,000
Percentage of population (6)	5	5	4	4	4
Number of children benefiting from some free early education[4]	38,400[7]	39,200[7]	37,900[8]	37,900[8]	36,700[8]
Percentage of population[6]	3	3	3	3	3
Actual number of children benefiting from some free early education[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36,400
Percentage of population[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3
Maintained nursery and primary schools:					
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	676,500	663,800	657,700	663,800	683,000
Percentage of population[6]	59	59	59	58	57
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools					
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	320,200	312,300	312,500	318,900	321,300
Percentage of population[6]	28	28	28	28	27
Infant classes in primary schools[11]					
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	356,300	351,500	345,200	344,900	361,700
Percentage of population[6]	31	31	31	30	30

Table 1: Number of three and four year-olds taking up or benefiting from early education places [1, 2] by type of provider, England 2004-08—Position in January each year

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Special schools [12, 13]					
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	4,100	3,700	3,600	3,700	3,800
Percentage of population[6]	—	—	n/a	—	—
All providers					
Number of children taking up early education places 4	1,180,500[5]	1,152,4009[5]	1,140,800[5]	1,165,000[5]	1,199,800
Percentage of population[6]	103	103	102	101	101
Number of children benefiting from some free early education[4]	1,107,500[7]	1,103,400	1,101,100	1,126,100[8]	1,160,400[8]
Percentage of population[6]	97	98	98	98	97
Actual number of children benefiting from some free early education[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,136,300
Percentage of population[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	95

n/a = Not available

— Less than 5 per cent.

[1] Count of children aged three and four at 31 December in the previous calendar year, rounded to the nearest hundred.

[2] Numbers of three and four year-olds in schools may include some two year olds.

[3] Includes some local authority day nurseries registered to receive funding.

[4] Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.

[5] Scaled up from the data as returned by providers to al providers of early years education.

[6] Number of places taken up by three and four year-olds expressed as a percentage of the three and four year old population.

[7] Providers returned the number of three and four year-olds for which they had received or expected to receive funding.

[8] Local authorities returned the number of three and four year-olds for which they expected to receive funding.

[9] Any child attending more than one provider will have only been counted once.

[10] Includes direct grant nursery schools.

[11] Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.

[12] Includes general hospital schools.

[13] Excludes pupils who are also registered elsewhere.

Note: Rounding of components may cause discrepancies in totals.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four year olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008, available on my Department's website

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/SFR12-2008.pdf

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was only introduced in 2006-07. We do not separately identify the amount of funding in the DSG for early years. It is up to the local authorities to decide how to distribute their overall allocation.

In 2004-05 and 2005-06 LAs received funding to provide free nursery education for three and four year-olds through the under-fives sub-block of their Education Formula Spending Share (EPS). In 2004-05 £3,208 million was funded through the under-fives block of the Education Formula Spending (EFS) and in 2005-06 £3,456 million was funded. EFS was not ringfenced, so funding for education—including the notional under 5's funding—could be spent on other sectors and vice versa.

Pre-School Education: Per Capita Costs

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what per pupil funding was awarded for three to five year-olds taking up the 12.5 hours a week early years entitlement in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [206146]

Beverley Hughes: Since 2006, funding for the free early education entitlement has been part of thededicated schools grant which funds schools and early years providers for all three to 15 year-olds. Funding for three to five year-olds is not separately identified and each local authority determines distribution to providers, including per pupil amounts.

The underlying changes to the funding of children under five since 2001 make any figures on per pupil funding since that date incomparable.

Primary Education: School Meals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what foods are *(a)* prohibited and *(b)* discouraged in primary schools with Healthy Schools status. [208055]

Kevin Brennan: All primary schools, with or without Healthy Schools status, have to meet the food-based nutritional standards introduced in September 2006 for school lunches and from September 2007 for other school food. They will also have to meet the nutrient-based standards which will be introduced for primary school lunches in September 2008.

Primary schools that have achieved national Healthy Schools status would have satisfied 41 criteria under four core themes which include a Healthy Eating theme. Under this theme, a Healthy School would have developed a food policy which ensures that lunches, breakfast club, tuck shop, vending machine and after-school food service (where available in school) meets or exceeds current DCSF school food standards.

Reoffenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of breaches of a *(a)* community rehabilitation order, *(b)* supervision order, *(c)* community punishment order, *(d)* attendance centre order, *(e)* curfew order, *(f)* reparation order, *(g)* action plan order and *(h)* referral order led to a court appearance in each of the last five years; [207094]

(2) what the *(a)* breach rates and *(b)* completion rates were for young offenders sentenced to a (i) community rehabilitation order, (ii) supervision order, (iii) community punishment order, (iv) attendance centre order, (v) curfew order, (vi) reparation order, (vii) action plan order and (viii) referral order in each of the last five years. [207095]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 22 May]:* Data on breaches broken down by individual order is collated centrally only for the community punishment order, community rehabilitation order and community punishment and rehabilitation order. The percentage of offenders fully completing these orders, alongside percentages of offenders whose orders are terminated together with reason and sex is given in the following table. This information is contained in the offender management caseload statistics 2006.

Table 5.1 Terminations of court orders by reason and sex: England and Wales

Number of persons and percentages

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
CRO											
Males and females											
Ran their full course	72	72	71	68	67	68	60	57	56	58	69
Replaced by conditional discharge order	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Terminated early for:											
Good progress	9	8	8	8	9	8	8	9	9	10	8
Failure to comply with requirements	4	5	5	6	7	7	9	9	10	8	7
Conviction of offence	10	11	11	13	13	14	18	19	18	19	11
Other reasons	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	5	5	4
All CROs (=100 percentage)	51,385	51,516	53,943	59,648	60,135	58,842	57,877	60,427	60,584	50,745	31,216
Males											
Ran their full course	71	71	70	68	66	65	59	56	56	57	69
Replaced by conditional discharge order	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Terminated early for:											
Good progress	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	10	8
Failure to comply with requirements	4	5	5	6	7	7	8	9	10	8	7
Conviction of offence	12	12	12	14	14	15	19	20	19	20	12
Other reasons	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	5	5	4
All CROs (=100 percentage)	42,025	41,636	43,193	47,181	46,930	45,753	45,217	47,495	48,421	40,675	25,184
Females:											
Ran their full course	76	76	75	71	69	69	63	59	58	59	69
Replaced by conditional discharge order	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Terminated early for:											
Good progress	10	10	9	9	9	9	10	9	10	10	10
Failure to comply with requirements	4	4	5	7	8	8	9	10	10	9	8
Conviction of offence	5	6	7	9	9	10	13	15	16	16	8
Other reasons	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	5	5	4	4
All CROs (=100 percentage)	9,361	9,880	10,750	12,467	13,206	13,089	12,660	12,932	12,163	10,070	6,032

Table 5.1 Terminations of court orders by reason and sex: England and Wales

Number of persons and percentages

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
CRO element of CPRO											
Males and Females											
Ran their full course	57	61	61	58	56	57	52	49	45	45	59
Replaced by conditional discharge order	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Terminated early for:											
Good progress	13	11	11	11	11	11	13	12	13	12	11
Failure to comply with requirements	10	9	10	11	11	10	12	13	14	13	10
Conviction of offence	14	13	13	15	16	16	17	20	21	23	14
Other reasons	6	5	5	5	6	5	6	7	7	6	5
All CPROs (=100 percentage)	14,479	16,992	19,014	21,049	19,867	17,940	14,387	14,222	14,298	12,607	9,000
Males											
Ran their full course	57	60	60	57	56	57	51	48	44	45	59
Replaced by conditional discharge order	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Terminated early for:											
Good progress	12	11	10	11	10	11	12	12	12	12	10
Failure to comply with requirements	10	9	9	11	11	10	12	13	15	13	10
Conviction of offence	14	14	14	16	17	17	18	21	21	24	14
Other reasons	6	5	5	5	6	5	6	7	7	5	5
All CPROs (=100 percentage)	13,272	15,393	17,185	18,870	17,786	16,021	12,807	12,736	12,977	11,488	8,097
Females											
Ran their full course	59	66	63	59	57	58	54	51	48	46	60
Replaced by conditional discharge order	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Terminated early for:											
Good progress	15	14	11	13	14	15	19	18	17	18	16
Failure to comply with requirements	11	7	11	11	11	9	11	11	14	13	9
Conviction of offence	6	6	8	9	10	11	10	12	13	15	9
Other reasons	8	6	6	6	8	5	6	6	6	7	5
All CPROs (=100 percentage)	1,207	1,599	1,829	2,179	2,099	1,920	1,580	1,486	1,321	1,119	903
CPO											
Males and Females											
Specified hours completed	71	71	72	72	71	71	69	68	66	68	62
Failure to comply with requirements	14	14	13	13	13	12	12	12	12	11	14

Table 5.1 Terminations of court orders by reason and sex: England and Wales

Number of persons and percentages

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Conviction of an offence	6	6	7	7	9	9	10	10	11	11	12
Other change in circumstances	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	3
Warrant unexecuted	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	3
Other reason	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	6
All CPOs (=100 percentage)	49,015	46,606	45,237	49,372	49,030	48,996	51,251	49,430	51,517	49,081	23,762
Males											
Specified hours completed	70	71	78	71	70	70	68	67	65	66	60
Failure to comply with requirements	14	14	12	13	13	12	12	12	13	11	14
Conviction of an offence	6	6	[illegible]	7	9	10	11	11	11	12	12
Other change in circumstances	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	3
Warrant unexecuted	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	4
Other reason	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	6
All CPOs (=100 percentage)	45,207	42,627	40,896	44,246	43,678	43,231	45,161	43,482	45,364	43,087	20,571
Females											
Specified hours completed	78	77	78	75	76	77	77	74	74	75	71
Failure to comply with requirements	11	11	12	12	11	9	10	11	11	9	11
Conviction of an offence	2	3	3	5	5	6	6	5	6	7	7
Other change in circumstances	5	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	3	4
Warrant unexecuted	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2
Other reason	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5
All CPOs (=100 percentage)	3,808	3,979	4,341	5,126	5,352	5,766	6,090	5,948	6,153	5,994	3,191
CPO element of CPRO											
Males and Females											
Specified hours completed	69	68	66	63	60	60	60	59	57	60	54
Failure to comply with requirements	14	14	14	15	16	14	15	15	15	13	15
Conviction of an offence	9	10	12	13	16	18	16	16	17	18	18
Other change in circumstances	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4
Warrant unexecuted	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	2
Other reason	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	5	5	5	7
All CPROs (=100 percentage)	14,324	15,762	16,527	20,093	17,468	14,831	14,688	14,654	15,159	13,919	6,288
Males											
Specified hours completed	69	67	66	63	59	59	59	58	56	59	53
Failure to comply with requirements	14	14	14	15	16	14	15	15	15	13	15
Conviction of an offence	10	11	12	13	16	18	16	17	18	18	19

Table 5.1 Terminations of court orders by reason and sex: England and Wales

Number of persons and percentages

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Other change in circumstances	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4
Warrant unexecuted	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	2
Other reason	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	7
All CPROs (=100 percentage)	13,109	14,304	14,902	17,984	15,643	13,255	13,072	13,228	13,767	12,729	5,616
Females											
Specified hours completed	73	74	70	67	65	64	68	64	62	65	63
Failure to comply with requirements	13	11	15	14	14	13	13	14	16	14	12
Conviction of an offence	3	5	6	8	11	14	9	10	10	12	11
Other change in circumstances	6	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	3	5
Warrant unexecuted	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	1
Other reason	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	6	5	5	8
All CPROs (=100 percentage)	1,216	1,458	1,627	2,109	1,859	1,584	1,616	1,426	1,392	1,190	672

Schools: Transport

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Department for Transport on the fitting of seatbelts in all vehicles used to transport children to and from school. [207511]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* There have been no recent discussions between the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Transport on the fitting of seat belts in vehicles used to transport children to and from school. Seat belts must be fitted in all coaches and mini-buses carrying groups of children on organised trips, including when used for dedicated home to school transport, However much home to school transport is organised on service buses (typically double deckers) where there is no legal requirement to fit seat belts, as ills recognised that their design makes it technically difficult for adequate seat belts to befitted retrospectively.

Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary schools have a specialism in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* modern languages, *(d)* dance, *(e)* music, *(f)* sport, *(g)* science, *(h)* drama, *(i)* technology, *(j)* humanities and *(k)* other subjects; and if he will make a statement; [207122]

(2) how many secondary schools have specialist status in at least one area; and if he will make a statement. [207859]

Jim Knight: 2892 secondary schools have specialist status. The following table shows how many schools are specialist in each of the main initial specialisms available and the five additional specialisms made available to high performing specialist schools (HPSS). English, dance and drama are not individual specialisms, with English being part of the humanities specialism and dance and drama covered by the arts specialism.

Specialism	*Main specialism*	*Combined specialism*	*HPSS specialisms*	*Total number of schools with a specialism*
Arts	478	42	32	552
Business and enterprise	249	23	8	280
Engineering	57	12	0	69
Humanities	116	28	32	176
Language	220	19	111	350
Maths and computing	272	25	51	348
Music	26	10	16	52
Science	316	47	63	426
Sports	382	25	27	434
Technology	564	19	3	586
SEN	87	—	10	97
Leading edge	—	—	205	205
Raising achievement transforming learning	—	—	36	36

Specialism	*Main specialism*	*Combined specialism*	*HPSS specialisms*	*Total number of schools with a specialism*
Leadership partner school	—	—	14	14
Training school	—	—	222	222
applied learning (Previously vocational)	—	—	160	160

Sixth Form Education: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much per pupil funding there was for children taught in *(a)* school sixth forms and *(b)* sixth form and further education colleges in 2007-08; what the cost would have been of equalising funding per pupil at the level of school pupils in that year; and if he will make a statement. [200998]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Statement of Priorities, published in November 2007, set out that there will be a simpler, more transparent, common 16-18 funding system for schools, colleges and providers. This will be based on a common measure of the size of qualifications or learning programmes, standard learner numbers, 22 learning hours per week and a provider factor that is unique to every institution. On the basis of information provided by the LSC, under this new funding system the national funding rate per pupil for 2008/09 will be £2,945 for school sixth forms and £2,860 for FE colleges. The equivalent figures for 2007/08 have been estimated at £2,884 for school sixth forms and £2,790 for FE colleges.

The LSC hold the information required to calculate what the cost would have been of aligning funding rates between 16-18 pupils in school sixth forms and sixth-form colleges/FE colleges in 2007/08. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his response has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 22 May 2008:

> Further to your question to the SOS for Children, Schools and Families and the reply by Jim Knight, Minister for Schools I would like to add the following piece of information.
>
> In his response Mr Knight mentioned our new 16-18 funding system which comes into effect for 2008/09 and gave you the equivalent funding rates per standard learner number (SLN, a measure of the number of learners and the breadth of their learning). These are £2,945 for school sixth forms and £2,860 for FE college learners (including Sixth Form Colleges).
>
> As this is a new system there are no equivalent figures for 2007/08 but one may use the difference between the two figures £85 as a proxy for the difference in funding in 2007/08 given that the rates would notionally have increased by 2.1% in both cases. The additional piece of information required to make the estimation that you have asked for is the number of SLNs in 2007/08. We estimate this figure to be 1,002,322. Therefore the cost of equalising the base funding rate per learner in schools and colleges would be approximately £85 million per year. In addition, there are a number of other factors influencing the funding differences between school sixth forms and FE, which are explored in more detail in a report undertaken for the LSC by KPMG, published on 6 May. This is available on the LSC's website at:
>
> http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-fundinggap-may08.pdf
>
> We are working with DCSF and schools and colleges to review this funding difference and to look at ways of equalising funding.
>
> I hope you find this information useful.

Strengthening Families Grant

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what organisations were funded by the Strengthening Families Grant in each of the last five years. [208431]

Beverley Hughes: The Strengthening Families Grant (SFG) programme was launched hi 2005 for the three year period, 2005-08.

The SFG programme funded a total of 84 organisations (listed as follows) to support and develop activities in the area of parenting and relationship support.

2as1
ACGM
Action for Prisoners' Families
After Adoption
Agency for Culture and Change Management
Anyadwe Children and Family Welfare
ARC
Arch Initiatives
Asian Family Counselling Service
BAPs Care for Children Ltd
Barnardos
British Refugee Council
Calderdale Women
CEDC
Change
Chizuk
Circles Network
Cleverland Family Mediation
Coram
Deafax
Depaul trust
Eating Disorders Association
Ezer Leyolds
Fair Shares
Families Need Fathers
Family Matters Institute
Family Matters York
Family Nurturing Network
Family Rights Group
Family Welfare Association
Fathers Direct
Film It
Family Welfare Association
Good Shepherd Charities
HomeStart
Learning Partnership
Lesbian and Gay Foundation
Lubavitch Youth
Mancroft Advice Project

Marriage Care
Medway
Mid Staffs Mencap
Minster Centre
Muslim Welfare House
NAGRQ
National Black boys Can Assoc
National Deaf Children's Society
National Family and Parenting Institute
National Tenants Resource Centre
NCH
NCH South West
NCOPF
NCVCCO
New Forest and Romsey Mobile
One Plus One
PACE
PAPYRUS -Prevention of young suicide
Parenting UK
Parentline Plus
Partners of Prisoners and Families Support
Place to be
Poole Community Family Trust
Positive Parenting Publications
Prader Willi Syndrome Association
Prisoners Families and Friends
Race Equality Foundation
Refugee Action
Relate
Revival Support Service
RNIB
Safe Ground
SCOPE
Somerset Family Partnership
South London Tamil Welfare Group
Springboard Family Project
St. Christopher's Fellowship
St. Mungo's
Students Exploring Marriage
Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships
Totnes Community Family Trust
Trust for the Study of Adolescence
Wai Yin Chinese Women Society
YMCA
Young Voice

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adults enrolled on *(a)* Level 2 apprenticeships, *(b)* Level 3 advanced apprenticeships and *(c)* higher education apprenticeships in each year since 1997. [208110]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested about apprenticeships starts in England is provided in the following table. Information about apprenticeships at level 4 is not separately available, and information about starts by level is not available before 2002/03.

Adult[1] apprenticeship starts by level

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*[2]
Level 2 apprenticeships	50,000	54,000	48,000	41,000	46,000
Level 3 and 4 Apprenticeships[3]	36,000	32,000	28,000	27,000	31,000
Total	86,000	86,000	76,000	68,000	77,000

[1] Adult is defined as 19+.
[2] Figures or 2006/07 are preliminary due to late provider returns, therefore these figures may be revised upwards.
[3] Because of small numbers includes higher education level 4 apprenticeships.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 1000.
Source:
LSC Individualised Learner Record.

Apprentices: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding has been allocated by his Department to *(a)* adult Level 2 apprenticeships, *(b)* adult Level 3 advanced apprenticeships and *(c)* higher education apprenticeships in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [208109]

Mr. Lammy: The Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families allocate funds to the Learning and Skills Council for the provision of Apprenticeships in England. The allocations for 2007-08 to 2010-11 are outlined in our joint grant letter to the LSC. Our allocations for apprenticeships are not available in the form requested. The funds we make available are specified for 16-18 year olds apprentices and those aged 19 and over as follows:

	Financial year (£000)			
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
16-18 apprenticeships	624,299	636,847	705,251	776,153
Adult apprenticeships and work-based learning	275,010	290,068	317,024	333,646

Source:
LSC grant letter 2008-09

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208177]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS staff are issued with laptops which are turned off and stored securely when not in use.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether any officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205903]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. No officials in the Department have been disciplined or dismissed for alleged breaches of data protection requirements or for the inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data since it was established.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 246W, on departmental equality, what percentage of top management positions in his Department were held by women; and what percentage of senior civil service positions were held by employees with disabilities in April 2008. [208127]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Pending transition to a common data collection system next year, the Department has access to information about its staff on the two databases of its predecessor Departments. Significant levels of non-declaration—as regards ethnicity and disability—affect the quality of present data. Subject to this limitation, the representation of women and employees with disabilities in senior positions is as follows:

(a) Currently three of 10 members of the DIUS board and three of four non-executive board members are women;

20 per cent. of the top management posts (permanent secretary and director general posts) are held by women (the Cabinet Office target is 30 per cent.);

32 per cent. of DIUS. senior civil servants are women (the Cabinet Office target for the whole civil service is 37 per cent.); and

(b) Where status is known, there are no senior civil servants in the Department reporting a disability.

Further Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will estimate the number of 19 to 25-year-olds expected to enrol on their first full level 3 course in each of the next five years; [196901]

(2) if he will estimate how many *(a)* 25 to 30 and *(b)* 25 to 35-year-olds he expects to enrol on their first full level 3 course in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [196906]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to ensuring that young adults have the opportunity to complete their education and gain a full level 3 qualification that will enable them to progress into skilled employment or higher education. We are committed to achieving the 2011 indicator of 56 per cent. of working age adults qualified to at least full level 3.

Table 1 shows projections of the number of adults (to the nearest 1,000) studying for full level 3 in further education until 2010-11. Projections beyond that date and for other age groups have not been made.

Table 2 shows projections of the number of adults aged 19+ (to the nearest 1,000) that will start a full level 3 qualification in Train to Gain and advanced apprenticeships through the employer responsive route. No breakdown by age is available. We have not measured the proportion doing first qualifications, although we expect it to be around 80 to 90 per cent. for Train to Gain.

Table 1: Adult learner responsive

			2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total aged 19+	Further education	Full level 3 learners	173,000	190,000	213,000	224,000
		of which, first full L3	95,000	104,000	117,000	123,000
Aged 19-24	Further education	Full level 3 learners	82,000	99,000	120,000	126,000
		of which, first full L3	45,000	54,000	66,000	69,000
Aged 25+	Further education	Full level 3 learners	91,000	91,000	93,000	98,000
		of which, first full L3	50,000	50,000	51,000	54,000

Source:
Based on LSC projections for Annual Statement of Priorities November 2007

Table 2: Employer responsive

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Train to Gain L3 learners and advanced apprenticeships (aged 19+)	69,000	118,000	127,000	362,000

Source:
Based on LSG projections for Annual Statement of Priorities November 2007

Further Education: Higher Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many students studied a higher education course in a further education college in each of the last 20 years for which figures are available; [203925]

(2) what percentage of higher education students were studying at a further education college in the most recent period for which figures are available. [203926]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table. Information prior to the 2002/03 academic year is not available on a comparable basis.

Higher education enrolments[1] at English further education colleges[2] academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07[3]

Academic year	*Enrolments*
2002/03	139,215
2003/04	143,065
2004/05	140,490
2005/06	138,305
2006/07[3]	131,040

[1] Excludes students registered at a higher education institution but franchised out to a further education college.

[2] Birmingham college of food, tourism and creative studies transferred to the higher education sector in 2002 and Leeds college of music transferred in July 2005. The figures have not been adjusted for colleges that transferred during this period from the FE to the HE sector, or for those which merged with HE institutions, and which therefore account for some of the year-on-year reductions.

[3] 2006/07 data is provisional. The final sweep of 2006/07 data will be available in January 2009.

Notes:
Figures are on a DIUS whole year count basis, which counts students enrolled at any point in the academic year, and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individualised Learner Record

The changes in the number of higher education enrolments at further education colleges are partly due to the transfer of institutions from the further education sector to the higher education sector. In addition, improvements to the reporting of franchising arrangements between higher education institutions and further education colleges may have contributed to the changes in numbers. Franchising is a process whereby one institution delivers a course on behalf of another and this often occurs between higher education institutions and further education colleges.

The methodology for calculating the number of students studying at higher education level in a further education college has recently been revised and updated, providing a more consistent time series back to 2002/03 when the individualised learner record was introduced.

On the above basis, the percentage of higher education students that were enrolled at an English further education college in the 2006/07 academic year was 6.6 per cent.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many people enrolled on *(a)* access courses and *(b)* foundation degrees in each year since 2006; and if he will make a statement; [195307]

(2) how many *(a)* access courses and *(b)* foundation degree courses were running in each year since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [195308]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is determined to develop and increase the range of non-traditional pathways into and through higher education. Improving the progress of school leavers into higher education will not be sufficient to meet the skills needs of the future. The Access to Higher Education scheme is one way of enabling adults, some of whom may have few other qualifications, or have been out of education for a number of years, to study successfully at the higher education level. The following table gives the available figures for Access to HE courses since 2006 in England and Wales.

	2005/06	*2006/07*
Total learner registrations[1] on QAA-recognised Access to HE courses in England and Wales	41,984	37,818
Access to HE courses running in England and Wales (of total number available)	1,079	1,057
	(1,341)	(1,258)

[1] Figures include learners registered on Access to HE courses which are in Higher Education Institutions and learners which are not publicly funded.

Source:
QAA. This data is collected by QAA from the 15 Access Validating Agencies in England and Wales. Data is collected retrospectively, following the completion of an academic year. As a result, no data for learner registrations or courses running is available for 2007/08.

Over recent years we have seen an expansion of more flexible routes into HE and increased options for those wishing to benefit from an HE experience, such as Foundation Degrees and progression through professional and vocational courses, and figures show that the number of people applying to enter higher education continue to increase.

The latest available information for the number of students on Foundation Degrees is shown in the following table.

Foundation degree student[1] at Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges in England—academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08

Academic year	*Foundation degree students*
2006/07	60,580
2007/08	71,915

[1] Figures show counts of years of instance eligible to be counted in that years HESES or HEIFES return. See Annex E of HEFCE's HESES or HEIFES guidance for further information—http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2007/07_26/

Source:

Columns 1 + 2 of the Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey (HESES) and the Higher Education in Further Education Students Survey (HEIFES) produced by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Notes:

1. 2007/08 values are provisional.
2. Figures cover Home, ED and Overseas domiciled students.

The UCAS website states that there are 3,986 Foundation Degree courses due to start in England in 2008. Figures for the number of courses running in 2006/07 and 2007/08 are not held centrally.

The success of Foundation Degrees means we are likely to meet our target participation rate of 100,000 Foundation Degree students by 2010.

Higher Education: Science

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment has been made of the effect of Student and Technology Facilities Council funding cuts on university science departments with particular reference to *(a)* staffing, *(b)* student recruitment and *(c)* research development; and if he will make a statement. [207368]

Ian Pearson: Staffing at university science departments and student recruitment is a matter for the universities.

STFC Council has made clear that the funding for physics exploitation grants will remain broadly level in this financial year (2008-09) and that there will be no major change in Particle Physics exploitation grant funding, other than for programmatic reasons, until after the Wakeham review has reported in late summer. Bill Wakeham, Vice Chancellor of Southampton university, has been asked to lead a review of the health of physics research in the UK, as part of a RCUK review of the continued health of key research disciplines.

The number of Post Doctoral Research Assistants (PDRAs) supported by STFC's astronomy grants in 2008-09 will also be very similar to the previous financial year. In addition, the research community will continue to have access to a range of world-class facilities, including CERN and the European Southern Observatory.

Lokhai Foundation

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has allocated to the Lokahi Foundation in each year for which figures are available. [206863]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not hold the information at the level of detail you require, so to provide it to you would be at disproportionate cost.

Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what role the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property will play in shaping Government policy on the creative industries; and if he will make a statement. [207836]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 2 June 2008]*: SABIP's role is to give Government strategic advice on the formulation of policy in all areas of intellectual property including those related to the creative industries.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to commission research from the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property; and if he will make a statement. [207837]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 2 June 2008]*: SABIP will be established on 2 June and is expected to a present a draft work programme for Ministers to sign off in September. The Secretary of State will then consider with the Minister for Intellectual Property what research needs to be commissioned from SABIP.

Vocational Training

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will provide a breakdown by main budget heading of the Train to Gain budget for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [207551]

Mr. Lammy: Train to Gain is the Government's premier service to help businesses identify their skills needs and then to access the training and support they need to succeed including publicly funded training for low skilled employees and referrals to other sources of business support such as IIP. It is delivered through the Learning and Skills Council.

Train to Gain is already a success, since it began roll out in April 2006 it has engaged with almost 90,000 employers, supported almost 420,000 learners and helped over 195,000 people to achieve qualifications.

Expansion of Train to Gain is central to our aim to work with employers to improve productivity and competitiveness by raising the skills of their work force.

The Train to Gain budget as published in the last LSC Grant Letter in November 2007, broken down by the main budget headings, is given as follows:

	Budget (£000)	
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Train to Gain—Delivery	411,822	593,393
Train to Gain—Marketing	7,919	6,900
Train to Gain—Evaluation	1,700	1,700
Train to Gain—Brokerage	41,578	24,000
Train to Gain—Higher Skills for Women	10,000	10,270
Train to Gain—Level 3 Pilots	53,900	20,810
Total budget	526,919	657,073

Note:

The Train to Gain budget increased by £6.392 million during 2007-08.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps his Department is taking to prevent armed forces personnel from developing mental health conditions; [208057]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to provide members of the armed forces who develop mental health conditions with support. [208060]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to chapter 6, paragraphs 90-97, of the House of Commons Defence Committee report, 'Medical Care for the Armed Forces' (HC 327), published 18 February 2008.

In summary, in Iraq and Afghanistan, we deploy uniformed mental health nurses to provide the necessary in-theatre care and treatment for our personnel. Where possible personnel returning from front-line duty are provided with a period of decompression, that is to say they have the opportunity to recover in a group setting before returning to their families and friends. Within the UK MOD provides mental health care in accordance with the principles set out by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. This is carried out primarily through 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health, with satellite centres overseas. This approach was endorsed by the HCDC report.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Saxon, *(b)* CVR(T) and *(c)* FV432 (and derivative) armoured vehicles are (i) in the Army's inventory, (ii) fully serviceable and (iii) capable of becoming fully serviceable at short notice; what the anticipated out-of-service dates are of each type; what change there has been to those out of service dates since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [207199]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For the purposes of MOD reporting, the definition used for fully serviceable is that the vehicle and everything on it is working and operationally effective. The information set out below, includes the FV430 Series, of which the FV432 is a derivative.

	Saxon	*CVR(T)*	*FV430 Series*
Number in inventory	147	1196	1490 (includes 900 Mk 3 Bulldog)
Number fully serviceable	143	690	1118
Number which could be made fully serviceable at short notice	2	160	82
Current out of service date(OSD)	2014	2014-2025	2010-2025 2010 for all non- Bulldog. 2025 for last Bulldog
Changes to OSD since 2005	Nil	Move from 2012 to 2014	Nil

Defence Medical Training Establishment

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Defence Medical Training Establishment to be operational at the Whittington Barracks near Lichfield; what assessment he has made of progress to date; and if he will make a statement. [207597]

Derek Twigg: The Midland Medical Accommodation project is still in the assessment phase. It remains our intention to co-locate key elements of the Defence Medical Services at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. As well as the Defence Medical Services Training Centre, these elements are likely to include the HQ of the Joint Medical Command, which has recently replaced the Defence Medical Education and Training Agency, and the new Strategic Medical HQ that is now being developed.

We hope to reach a decision before the summer recess on the next steps in taking forward this project. I will write to the hon. Member when we have reached a decision.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208174]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has for some time issued instructions for staff to close down personal computers (PCs) when not in use. These instructions are regularly repeated in notices to system users. Exceptions apply to some older equipment that is left switched on for technical reasons, but most legacy equipment is being replaced under the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme. DII is already implemented throughout MOD Main Building and many other key MOD sites.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is his policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials in his Department if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment he has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207439]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice gave on Monday 2 June, *Official Report*, column 640W.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals were employed as staff by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [206546]

Derek Twigg: No information on country of birth or nationality can be provided for civilian personnel. This is because the Ministry of Defence civilian personnel reporting system Human Resources Management System, does not identify personnel by country of origin, nationality or citizenship status.

Country of birth information for UK armed forces personnel cannot be provided. This information was not collected centrally pre-joint personnel administration (JPA), the Departments' service personnel system, and is not available post JPA due to an ongoing data validation exercise, however, information on nationality can be provided.

The following table shows UK and Non-UK Naval Service and Army personnel as at 1 April 2003, 2004 and 2005 and for all Naval Service, Army and RAF personnel as at 1 April 2006 and 2007.

[1] Data are for UK regular forces which includes nursing services and excludes full time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

	Navy and Army only[1]			*All services*	
Nationality	*April-2003*	*April-2004*	*April-2005*	*April-2006*	*Apr-2007*[2]
UK Personnel	146,030	145,020	140,780	187,310	[3]181,350
Non-UK Personnel	4,950	6,240	6,900	7,370	[3]7,640
Unknown	2,700	2,360	1,550	1,170	[3]1,410
Total	153,680	153,630	149,230	195,850	[3]190,400

[1] Information on nationality for RAF personnel pre-joint personnel administration (April 2006 for RAF) can only be provided at a disproportionate cost. Consequently the data in the table from 1 April 2003-05 only includes Navy and Army data.

[2] Due to ongoing validation of data from the new joint personnel administration system. UK armed forces data as at 1 April 2007 is provisional and subject to review.

[3] Provisional.

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on private security contractors for UK military facilities in Iraq in each year since 2003. [207693]

Des Browne: Since UK forces first deployed into Iraq in 2003, we have not employed private military security contractors in order to help secure UK military facilities in Iraq.

Between 1 July 2007 and 31 August 2007, we placed a contract with Armor Group in order to protect two vacant UN compounds within the Basrah Palace complex, at a cost of some £1.1 million.

Military Bands

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* naval bands there were in each year since 1997. [207278]

Derek Twigg: The information is as follows.

1997	There were 55 Army Bands, 30 of which were Regular Army Bands and 25 Territorial Army (TA) Bands
1998	As a result of the Strategic Defence Review, the number of TA Bands was reduced to 16 bringing the total number of Army Bands down to 46
2006	Future Army Structures led to six Regular Army Bands being amalgamated whilst four TA Bands were established as part of TA Re-Balancing. This gave an overall Army total of 44 bands (24 Regular Army and 20 TA)
2007	Northern Ireland Normalisation led to the disbandment of The Band of The Royal Irish Regiment leaving 23 Regular Army Bands and 20 TA, a total of 43 Army Bands
Since 1996	The Royal Marines Band Service has comprised of five bands

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Foreign Investment in UK

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what definition his Department uses for high value in relation to foreign direct investment projects facilitated by UK Trade and Investment. [208156]

Mr. Thomas: A high value project has at least one of the following attributes:

(a) R&D intensive;

(b) EHQ (European headquarters);

(c) Knowledge-driven manufacturing;

(d) Job numbers exceed 150;

(e) Job value is 20 per cent. above UK national average;

(f) Internationally mobile;

(g) Company/higher education institution (HEI) collaboration that results in capital investment.

Overseas Trade: Burma

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to dissuade companies based in the UK from trading with Burma. [207879]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government discourage trade and investment with Burma. We offer no commercial services or support to UK companies wishing to trade with or invest in Burma. British companies who inquire about trade with Burma are informed of the grave political situation, the regime's atrocious record on human rights and the country's dire economic prospects.

We have consistently supported measures that target those responsible for the regime's policies, rather than a blanket ban that would hurt the ordinary people of Burma. These include the EU's 'Common Position' on Burma, which imposes sanctions on Burma, including a ban on EU companies investing in certain Burmese state-owned companies.

Current trade levels are very low—with overall bilateral trade just over £30 million and with UK investment negligible.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the cost of implementing the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 for local shops if those supervising newspaper deliverers were included. [207303]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Earlier this year, the Department concluded a consultation on many aspects of the scheme including issues for business. Responses were received from the retail sector about under-16s working in shops. The Government published their formal response to that consultation on 30 May. The response made clear that shopkeepers and members of their staff will not be required to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) scheme in respect of any newspaper deliverers aged under the age of 16 whom they may employ. However adult staff will commit an offence if they frequently train, supervise, or instruct children under the age of 16 while barred; and employers or managers will commit an offence if they knowingly allow a barred adult employee to have such contact with children under the age of 16. The ISA scheme will not apply at all to adult shop workers' contact with 16 and 17-year-old workers.

We will continue to work with business and other stakeholders on preparing regulations and implementing the Act. The Government's 2006 impact assessment for the ISA scheme found that costs for businesses, some of whom already vet staff supervising children, will be offset by savings—for example on repeat work, since ISA registration will be portable from job to job—as well as by reduced risk of unsuitable employees.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have transferred housing stock to arms length management organisations (ALMO); what the most recent Audit Commission rating of each such ALMO is; what permissions to borrow each has been granted; and what guidance her Department has issued to those ALMOs which have not achieved two stars. [204019]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities do not transfer their housing stock to arms length management organisations (ALMOs). The Department makes available additional capital funding allocations to local authorities who have a high performing ALMO. That funding is in the form of supported borrowing through the housing revenue account subsidy system, and is in addition to other supported borrowing authorities may receive for housing investment. ALMOs receive their funding from their local authorities via a management fee. The following table lists the most recent Audit Commission inspection rating of each ALMO, and capital allocations made from the ALMO programme up to 2008-09.

The Department has issued a guidance note, "Policy on the arrangement for the re-inspection of ALMOs". Officials liaise regularly and provide advice as required with those ALMOs who have not achieved a two star inspection rating. ALMOs also receive support and guidance from their local authorities, the Audit Commission, the National Federation of ALMOs, and Government offices through the ALMO support network.

Local authorities with ALMOs: Inspection ratings and ALMO capital funding allocations

Council	Star rating		Allocation to 2008-09 (£)
Ashfield	3	[1]—	55,320,000
Barnet	2	[2]—	68,981,400
Barnsley	2	[2]—	141,600,000
Bassetlaw	2	[2]—	16,500,000
Blackpool	2	[1]—	11,000,000
Blyth Valley	2	[2]—	48,358,000
Bolton	3	[2]—	157,560,000
Brent	3	[1]—	67,997,000
Bury	2	[2]—	24,490,000
Carrick	3	[2]—	23,060,000
Cheltenham	3	[1]—	31,440,000
Colchester	2	[2]—	35,710,000
Derby	3	[1]—	97,176,000
Doncaster	2	[2]—	93,200,000
Ealing	2	[2]—	132,548,000
Easington	1	[3]—	—
Eastbourne	2	[2]—	19,494,000
Gateshead	2	[2]—	161,205,980
Gloucester	2	[2]—	23,735,000
Hackney	1	[2]—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	[1]—	142,954,000
Haringey	2	[2]—	29,999,000
Havering	1	[2]—	—
High Peak	2	[2]—	9,306,000
Hillingdon	2	[1]—	59,300,000
Hounslow	3	[1]—	99,650,000
Islington	2	[1]—	120,823,200
Kensington and Chelsea	3	[1]—	43,439,000
Kirklees	3	[2]—	149,800,000
Leeds	2	[2]—	410,100,439
Manchester (part)	2	[1]—	92,988,000
Newark and Sherwood	2	[2]—	38,120,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	2	[2]—	255,220,000
Newham	2	[2]—	123,226,000
Nottingham City	1	[3]—	—
Oldham	2	[2]—	86,400,000
Poole	3	[2]—	30,080,120
Rochdale	2	[2]—	106,300,000
Rotherham	2	[3]—	157,500,000
Sandwell	2	[2]—	200,600,000

Local authorities with ALMOs: Inspection ratings and ALMO capital funding allocations

Council	*Star rating*		*Allocation to 2008-09 (£)*
Sheffield	3	[2]—	376,057,060
Slough	2	[2]—	22,635,000
Solihull	3	[1]—	54,245,000
South Lakeland	2	[2]—	18,882,000
South Tyneside	2	[2]—	Yet to be agreed
Stockport	3	[1]—	63,146,000
Stockton on Tees	2	[2]—	63,000,000
Sutton	1	[2]—	—
Waltham Forest	2	[3]—	49,349,750
Warrington	3	[1]—	30,199,680
Wear Valley	2	[3]—	11,000,000
Westminster	3	[1]—	74,000,000
Wigan	2	[3]—	137,300,000
Wolverhampton	2	[2]—	72,000,000

[1] Excellent prospects for improvement.
[2] Promising prospects for improvement.
[3] Uncertain prospects for improvement.

Carbon Emissions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultations (*a*) have taken place and (*b*) are planned by her Department on the definition of zero carbon. [207556]

Caroline Flint: The consultation paper "Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development"

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/planningandbuilding/buildinggreener

was issued in December 2006. It sought views on the Government's proposals to reduce the carbon footprint of new housing development and on a proposed target that all new homes should be zero carbon from 2016. The results of this consultation fed into the "Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement" issued in July 2007 which set out the current definition of zero carbon homes

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/building-greener.pdf.

In the 2008 Budget the Government announced that the 2016 definition of a zero carbon home would be set by the end of 2008, following a forthcoming consultation in the summer. In addition, the Budget also announced the Government's ambition for new non-domestic buildings to be zero carbon from 2019. We intend to consult on this later this year.

Community Relations: Extremism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to tackle extremism in local communities. [209042]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government is responsible for promoting cohesion in local communities, including tackling extremism of all kinds. The Department is also responsible for the communities-based element of the cross-Government strategy to prevent violent extremism, part of the wider Counter-terrorism strategy, as set out in the Delivery Plan launched on 3 June 2008.

Council Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have chosen as their preferred option for housing stock (*a*) retention, (*b*) transfer, (*c*) an arm's length management organisation, (*d*) a private finance initiative and (*e*) a mix of these options. [203538]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council houses there are in each local authority area; and what estimate she has made of (*a*) the cost of transferring these houses to registered social landlords and (*b*) the cost of gap funding for such transfers. [204839]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table listing the number of council homes in each local authority that currently has council housing, as at 1 April 2007, including homes owned by arms length management organisations (ALMOs) has been placed in the Library of the House.

No estimates have been made of the possible costs of transferring these homes to registered social landlords.

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 19th April 2004, *Official Report*, columns 354-5W, on management and maintenance allowance, by (*a*) how many percentage points and (*b*) how much the average 2001-02 management and maintenance allowance would have had to increase by 2008-09 to reach the level of the need to spend on management and maintenance indicated by the findings in Estimate of the Need to Spend on Maintenance and Management in Local Authority Housing, published in June 2003. [203479]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have not carried out an uprating of the BRE analysis and therefore currently have no comparable evidence of the size of the present gap. The

Review of Council Housing Finance, launched on 10 March, is looking at what it currently costs to run council housing.

Council Tax: Armed Forces

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the merits of establishing a statutory council tax discount for service personnel; and if she will make a statement; [207545]

(2) whether she plans to establish a statutory council tax discount for service personnel; and if she will make a statement. [207546]

John Healey: From 1 April 2008, all service personnel deployed overseas on specified operations have been entitled to payment under the MOD's Council Tax Relief Scheme, which is worth £142 over a six-month tour. There are no plans to establish a statutory discount.

Eco Towns

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role *(a)* the restructured regional development agencies and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency will play in the planning process for the (i) first and (ii) second wave of eco-town developments. [207559]

Caroline Flint: Some eco-town proposals relate to locations which are already the subject of consideration in a current regional spatial strategy (RSS) process, and we expect the RSS reviews announced in the Housing Green Paper (which depending on the region will be prepared between now and 2011) to test the longer term issues that arise from the eco-town proposals-such as the ultimate size of new settlements. Regional development agencies will be responsible for the future preparation of RSS reviews.

We expect that the Homes and Communities Agency will be able to take a leadership role in helping to deliver some of the eco-towns, with public and private partners, as English Partnerships is doing at Northstowe, an early prototype eco-town in Cambridgeshire. When the Homes and Communities Agency is established we would expect it to play a major role in supporting local authorities, and work with bidders to review and refine detailed proposals as they are developed.

There are no current proposals to hold another round of the eco-towns process.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the Answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 663W, on eco-towns, in which of the shortlisted sites her Department has sold or otherwise disposed of land in the last 10 years under arrangements whereby her Department would benefit from a future sale of the land; [207156]

(2) what estimate she has made of the sale price *(a)* before and *(b)* after shortlisting of (i) the site owned by English Partnerships and (ii) sites sold by her Department and its predecessors in the last 10 years. [207173]

Caroline Flint: On information currently available, none of the 13 eco-town locations, which have been shortlisted for public consultation and further assessment are on land previously occupied or sold by my Department and its predecessors and English Partnerships in the last 10 years.

In respect of the Stretton Hall site owned by English Partnerships, which I referred to in my answer to the hon. Member on 1 May. The land is not currently allocated for development in regional or local plans, but English Partnerships has begun working with the regional body and the local authority to help revise their planning documents. This will of course take some time and values could change significantly from its current use to a site, which is potentially part of a wider area master plan, with planning consent, plus all the necessary planned infrastructure, employment space and social facilities.

Eco-Towns: Planning Permission

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the developers for the 15 shortlisted eco-town locations will be required to provide *(a)* a concept statement and *(b)* an environmental impact statement. [208154]

Caroline Flint: The promoters of eco-town locations are currently providing more detailed specification of their proposals as part of the further assessment that Government are carrying out of financial, transport and sustainability aspects of the proposals. This will include all the main features of each scheme. In addition, like any proposed development, eco-towns will need to be the subject of a planning application. Each application must be decided on its merits and the local planning authority will need to take into account all the impacts of the proposals. In order for this to happen developers will need to provide full details of their Environment Statement, and address issues such as design, the impact of the proposed development on the landscape and neighbourhood, the transport system, public services, infrastructure and benefits to the community.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much food waste her Department generated in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [208134]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government generated the following amount of food waste during the last two years:

	Tonnes
2006-07	21.6
2007-08	19.1

Since 2006, the Department has sent all of its separated food waste to a composting facility rather than to landfill.

No data are held prior to 2006-07 and nor are any data available for the Department's executive agencies.

Home Information Packs

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to ensure that *(a)* the contents of home information packs are accurate and *(b)* the providers of home information packs have satisfactory arrangements for dealing with complaints and redress. [207390]

Caroline Flint: Documents contained within home information packs (HIPs) should comply with the standards set out in regulations. The "HIP Code" also sets out minimum standards which pack providers have to meet—most pack providers subscribe to this code. The code is administered by the Property Codes Compliance Board, an independent regulator whose role is to ensure that private organisations providing property search reports and home information packs are compliant. Most pack provider companies subscribe to the HIP code and estate agents and conveyancers involved in pack provision are subject to additional compulsory redress arrangements.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether, following the expiration of the current transitional arrangements, homes will not be able to be marketed for sale without a full home information pack. [207391]

Caroline Flint: We remain committed to ensuring that consumers see and can use key information early in the process of buying and selling a home. The extension of temporary provisions for first day marketing and leasehold marketing I announced to the House on 8 May bring all temporary provisions within the same time scale which should allow us to finalise the implementation of home information packs from 31 December 2008.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to pages 26 to 27 of her Department's Annual Report for 2008, what methodology was used to determine the proportion of consumers who do not see home information packs; and what analysis her Department has undertaken to establish why more consumers do not see home information packs. [208083]

Caroline Flint: The proportion of consumers who did not see their home information pack (HIP), and the reasons behind this, were based on a survey of buyers and sellers who took part in our area trials prior to the national launch of HIPs. The report also explained the main reasons why more consumers did not see the HIP. Further details can be found from the research report at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/hiptrialareas.pdf

Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations of the 2005 Office of Fair Trading market study report on local searches have been implemented; which recommendations have yet to be implemented; and what the timetable is for implementation. [207389]

Caroline Flint: The only outstanding Office of Fair Trading (OFT) recommendations are those relating to the 'availability of unrefined information'. To address these, the Department published good practice access guidance and a consultation paper on future local authority charges for property searches on 18 January 2008. The consultation has now closed and we are analysing the responses and considering the next steps. Together these two initiatives will complete implementation of the OFT's recommendations.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local authorities did not provide access to records required to complete a local search report in the latest period for which figures are available; and what effect this is having on competition and choice in the local searches market. [207399]

Caroline Flint: Formal data is not held by the Department. However, a recent stakeholder survey of local authorities (LAs) indicated that on 1 April 2008, just over 50 per cent. were providing open access to personal searchers to all the records required to complete a local search report. The rest provide access to the majority of the necessary records.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have directly participated in the *(a)* Social HomeBuy, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy and *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy schemes. [207554]

Caroline Flint: Social HomeBuy is a voluntary scheme which provides new opportunities for social tenants who do not have a right to buy or right to acquire or who cannot afford to purchase outright to buy a share of their rented home at a discount.

To-date 10 local authorities have participated in the pilot scheme. These are:

London boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Croydon, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth; Harlow and Waveney district councils.

No local authorities have directly participated in the new build and open market homebuy schemes, which are usually provided by registered social landlords.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the expected change in *(a)* numbers of new houses built and *(b)* house prices in the next 12 months. [208098]

Caroline Flint: The Government do not publish forecasts for house prices or house-building. However many external commentators are now expecting house prices to fall in 2008 by 5 to 10 per cent. Housing starts in 2007-08 were 10 per cent. lower than in 2006-07 and this is likely to be reflected in lower levels of housing completions during 2008-09.

Housing: Energy

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to assist home owners to carry out energy efficiency improvements recommended in energy performance certificates. [207396]

Caroline Flint: The Government have put in place a number of programmes to assist home owners to carry out energy efficiency improvements recommended in their energy performance certificates, or which they have identified for themselves. For example, in April, the Government launched the carbon emissions reduction target, under which the energy companies collectively will be investing around £1 billion per annum for the next three years on energy efficiency measures. A new Act on CO_2 helpline, run by the Energy Saving Trust was also launched in April, with the support of £26 million Government funding. This will provide home owners with advice on energy efficiency improvements they can make. To facilitate this, the Government will shortly be consulting on giving the Energy Saving Trust access to data from energy performance certificates, so that the Trust can identify the least energy efficient homes and target them with offers of help.

Housing: Low Incomes

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many applications have been made under the My Choice Home Buy Scheme since its inception; [201301]

(2) how many property sales have been completed under the My Choice Home Buy Scheme since its inception; [201302]

(3) whether funds have been available for completions under the My Choice Home Buy Scheme since 1st April 2008. [201303]

Caroline Flint: The Housing Corporation launched two new HomeBuy products on 1 April including MyChoiceHomeBuy, and funds have been available through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme since 1 April. No applications or completions have been made since the scheme was launched, but the new products have generated a lot of interest. Formal applications are not made until someone has found a property. We would expect completions to take place between three to six months as with any house purchase. In the meantime, applications and completions continue from the 2006 to 2008 HomeBuy programme.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of households which will participate in each of the three HomeBuy programmes in 2008-09. [208100]

Caroline Flint: We currently estimate that the total number of households assisted through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme Open Market HomeBuy scheme in 2008-09 will be 4,600. For New Build HomeBuy, our current estimate of households to be assisted through this scheme is around 17,000 in 2008-09. Both of these estimates are subject to market forces.

We have not set individual targets for Open Market HomeBuy or NewBuild HomeBuy to ensure flexibility within the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme 2008-11. Social HomeBuy is a demand-led product for social tenants and as such no targets are associated with this programme.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the £200 million announced on 14 May 2008 to purchase new properties from house builders is additional housing expenditure or will replace existing Housing Corporation spending on affordable housing. [208103]

Caroline Flint: The £200 million announced on 14 May will be used by the Housing Corporation to fund RSLs and others to purchase new properties from house builders. It is part of the unallocated grant funding for the current financial year from within the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme budget for 2008-11.

We are allowing the Housing Corporation flexibility to take advantage of opportunities offered by the current housing market to fund RSLs and others to buy unsold stock from developers at competitive rates with a view to provision of either social rent or low cost home ownership. This will enable RSLs and others to take advantage of the competitive rates offered by the current market as well as helping developers at a challenging time in the new build market.

Housing: Regeneration

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* homes have been built and *(b)* homes have been demolished with Pathfinder support in each housing market renewal Pathfinder area in each year up to 31st March 2008; and how much was spent in each Pathfinder area on such activities in each year. [206682]

Mr. Iain Wright: The requested data is in the following table:

		New Build					
	Total HMR funding 2002 to 2008 (£m)	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Birmingham Sandwell	94.7	27	47	62	52	36	224
East Lancashire	167.5	0	0	0	16	0	16
Hull and East Riding	52.6	0	0	0	44	100	144
Manchester Salford	223.7	0	0	0	127	473	600
Merseyside	190.3	0	6	11	321	285	623
Newcastle Gateshead	133.5	17	9	11	44	124	205
North Staffordshire	100.4	0	0	0	0	52	52
Oldham Rochdale	121.7	0	0	0	106	165	271
South Yorkshire	160.6	0	0	2	176	1,178	1,356
Totals	1,245.0	44	62	86	886	2,413	3,491

	Demolitions					
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Birmingham Sandwell	311	71	306	60	207	955
East Lancashire	227	311	331	309	272	1,450
Hull and East Riding	0	0	147	92	92	331
Manchester Salford	216	571	454	755	311	2,307
Merseyside	199	110	185	256	322	1,072
Newcastle Gateshead	387	409	506	258	289	1,849
North Staffordshire	104	234	62	215	282	897
Oldham Rochdale	95	78	164	164	148	649
South Yorkshire	398	1,105	627	525	519	3,174
Totals	1,937	2,889	2,782	2,634	2,442	12,684

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been *(a)* acquired, *(b)* demolished, *(c)* refurbished and *(d)* built in each of the housing renewal pathfinder areas since 31 December 2006; and if she will make a statement. [206827]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on acquisitions, demolitions, refurbishments and new build is collected on an annual basis. Totals for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are set out in the following table:

	New build			Repairs, improvements and refurbishments			Demolitions			Acquisitions		
	2006-07	2007-08	Total	2006-07	2007-08	Total	2006-07	2007-08	Total	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Birmingham Sandwell	52	36	88	518	1,498	2,016	60	207	267	70	146	216
East Lancashire	16	0	16	336	506	842	309	272	581	454	384	838
Hull and East Riding	44	100	144	20	189	209	92	92	184	151	221	372
Manchester Salford	127	473	600	2,305	512	2,817	755	311	1,066	601	640	1,241
Merseyside	321	285	606	873	598	1,471	256	322	578	422	520	942
Newcastle Gateshead	44	124	168	1,692	1,623	3,315	258	289	547	122	175	297
North Staffordshire	0	52	52	846	2,544	3,390	215	282	497	300	466	766
Oldham Rochdale	106	165	271	278	500	778	164	148	312	216	153	369
South Yorkshire	176	1,178	1,354	1,751	3,478	5,229	525	519	1,044	384	751	1,135
Total	886	2,413	3,299	8,619	11,448	20,067	2,634	2,442	5,076	2,720	3,456	6,176

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 974-5W, on the local authority business growth incentives (LABGI) scheme, how much will be provided to local authorities under the LABGI scheme in 2011-12; [207517]

(2) pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2107W, on non-domestic rates, how much was provided to local authorities under the local authority business growth incentives scheme in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; [207518]

John Healey: To date, local authorities in England have received £149,704,135 for 2005-06 and £384,751,482 for 2006-07 under the three-year local authority business growth incentives scheme.

I announced provisional additional payments of £13,509,463 for 2005-06 and £37,348,549 for 2006-07, as well as provisional allocations of £246,075,319 for 2007- 08, on 2 April. We gave local authorities a period to raise queries on these provisional allocations, finishing on 16 May. I intend to announce the final allocations as soon as possible.

Decisions on public spending in 2011-12 will be made as part of the next spending review.

Planning Permission

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning decisions have been taken *(a)* by planning officers under delegated powers and *(b)* by planning committees in each year since 1997. [208451]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of planning applications decided by planning officers under delegated powers and by planning committees are set out in the following table:

	Planning officers	Planning committees
1997-98	265,700	195,800
1998-99	315,200	151,100
1999-2000	342,900	136,600

	Planning officers	Planning committees
2000-01	376,600	121,300
2001-02	416,500	117,600
2002-03	487,700	97,900
2003-04	539,900	84,900
2004-05	572,100	73,200
2005-06	531,800	66,900
2006-07	529,900	57,700

Source:

Communities and Local Government Development Control Statistics returns

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many outstanding *(a)* enforcement notices and *(b)* planning appeals there are in each region; and how many there were in each year since 1997. [208452]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of enforcement notices which are outstanding in each region and how many have been issued is not held centrally.

Information on how many planning appeals there are in each region and on how many there were in each year since 2000-01 (the earliest date for which figures are available) can be found at:

http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/statistics/index.htm

Planning Permission: Gardens

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to prevent front and back gardens from being over-developed in the form of blocks of flats replacing gardens. [207561]

Caroline Flint: Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing (PPS3) expects local planning authorities and regions to take a positive, plan-led approach to providing the right quantity of housing to address need and demand in their areas, and the right quality and mix of housing for their communities, based on robust evidence based approach. This is why PPS3 asks local planning authorities to carry out strategic housing market assessments, which should then inform the planning process. PPS3 also gives local planning authorities the responsibility for deciding the most suitable locations for housing that they wish to see in their area and the ability to put in place local plan policies to address concerns around development on garden land in areas where it is a problem.

Local planning authorities should include appropriate policies in their local plans which will help deliver the amount of housing they need and decide where that housing should be located. It is for them to determine individual planning applications such as those for the development of flats on existing residential land, including considering whether it is a suitable location for such development, in accordance with their local plans, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Political Extremism

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition of political extremism is, as referred to in the guidance issued to local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring. [208080]

Mr. Dhanda: 'Guidance for Local Authorities on Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring', published last month, reflects the reality that there are individuals and organisations in society, whose activities, motivated by extremist views, may have a negative impact on local community relations. We do not define political extremism as these issues need to be properly understood at the local level.

Regional Planning and Development: Eco-Towns

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of proposals for eco-towns in the North West of England on the rate of investment in the East and South East Leeds regeneration project; and if she will make a statement. [207290]

Caroline Flint: I understand that the hon. Member is referring to the proposals for eco-towns in Yorkshire and Humber rather than the North West. As set out in the consultation document—"Eco-towns—Living a greener future" we are undertaking further reviews of sites in Leeds city region. As part of the viability of a scheme it would need to be assessed against the eco-towns criteria, which includes how an eco-town can harness the employment potential of local areas.

Thames Gateway Bridge

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with Transport for London on the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge. [207362]

Caroline Flint: There have been no meetings at ministerial or official level with Transport for London on the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge since the mayoral elections.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 601W, on airguns, if she will breakdown the figures by *(a)* age of the victim, *(b)* age of the perpetrator and *(c)* police force area. [205821]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Available data, relating to age of the victim and police force area, are shown in the following tables. Information about suspects is not collected centrally.

Table A: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in injury, by age of victim: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		2003-04		2004-05[2]		2005-06		2006-07	
Age of victim	Air weapons[3]	BB guns/soft air weapons[4]	Air weapons[3]	BB guns/soft air weapons[4]	Air weapons	BB guns/soft air weapons	Air weapons	BB guns/soft air weapons	Air weapons	BB guns/soft air weapons
Under 5 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	22	5	13	2	11
5 and under 11 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	92	475	64	347	48	213
11 and under 16 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	403	768	297	639	229	397
16 and under 21 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	281	138	210	146	217	125
21 and under 30 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	185	94	199	92	163	67
30 and under 50 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	330	169	271	144	246	110
50 and under 70 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	136	79	92	62	109	50
70 years and over	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	8	12	9	15	7
Unknown/not recorded	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	47	91	32	82	25	33
Total	2,377	n/a	2,395	n/a	1,498	1,844	1,182	1,534	1,054	1,013

n/a = Not available

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[2] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons, introduced on 1 April 2004, may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

[3] The age of victims has been collected only since 1 April 2004.

[4] Data for BB guns/soft air weapons have been separately collected only since 1 April 2004. Prior to that they were included within the 'imitation weapons' total.

Table B: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in injury, by police force area: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		2003-04		2004-05[2]		2005-06		2006-07	
Police force area	Air weapons	BB guns/soft air weapons[3]	Air weapons	BB guns/soft air weapons[3]	Air weapons	BB guns/soft air weapons	Air weapons	BB guns/soft air weapons	Air weapons	BB guns/soft air weapons
Avon and Somerset	79	n/a	68	n/a	37	71	18	63	23	37
Bedfordshire	28	n/a	16	n/a	12	23	7	14	1	12
Cambridgeshire	24	n/a	10	n/a	9	11	4	6	4	3
Cheshire	39	n/a	24	n/a	27	13	16	18	4	9
Cleveland	28	n/a	42	n/a	13	11	15	24	12	9
Cumbria	7	n/a	10	n/a	7	8	3	3	5	5
Derbyshire	98	n/a	111	n/a	30	57	26	38	14	20
Devon and Cornwall	84	n/a	83	n/a	37	76	24	50	16	39
Dorset	25	n/a	6	n/a	6	18	14	7	4	6
Durham	3	n/a	4	n/a	8	10	10	7	5	8
Dyfed Powys	9	n/a	7	n/a	14	10	23	5	10	5
Essex	119	n/a	122	n/a	31	58	48	63	45	38
Gloucestershire	15	n/a	14	n/a	15	36	15	21	7	20
Gtr. Manchester	213	n/a	136	n/a	135	123	67	100	72	62
Gwent	56	n/a	28	n/a	30	45	18	21	11	5
Hampshire	24	n/a	49	n/a	30	40	24	38	21	38
Hertfordshire	25	n/a	24	n/a	27	41	21	30	15	16
Humberside	64	n/a	63	n/a	18	39	9	23	16	14
Kent	62	n/a	56	n/a	52	31	42	36	55	29
Lancashire	18	n/a	19	n/a	43	114	27	108	47	57
Leicestershire	21	n/a	32	n/a	17	16	4	13	21	15
Lincolnshire	42	n/a	60	n/a	27	28	4	26	5	13
London City of	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	130	n/a	98	n/a	74	65	93	55	85	29
Metropolitan	303	n/a	332	n/a	226	202	176	166	139	92
Norfolk	13	n/a	3	n/a	2	5	5	7	4	4
North Wales	19	n/a	37	n/a	16	36	17	39	20	43
North Yorkshire	11	n/a	11	n/a	2	3	3	2	3	2
Northamptonshire	26	n/a	24	n/a	10	28	0	21	10	12
Northumbria	53	n/a	44	n/a	45	57	21	28	28	14
Nottinghamshire	125	n/a	82	n/a	46	46	46	28	44	12

Table B: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in injury, by police force area: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		*2003-04*		*2004-05*[2]		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Police force area	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*
South Wales	40	n/a	24	n/a	31	16	39	20	24	19
South Yorkshire	77	n/a	71	n/a	63	42	47	66	46	37
Staffordshire	87	n/a	65	n/a	25	50	8	47	19	16
Suffolk	21	n/a	34	n/a	8	13	8	18	11	6
Surrey	17	n/a	24	n/a	17	13	16	15	11	12
Sussex	59	n/a	56	n/a	22	15	38	6	17	18
Thames Valley	55	n/a	43	n/a	47	81	23	65	34	45
Warwickshire	14	n/a	14	n/a	10	18	5	13	6	14
West Mercia	87	n/a	70	n/a	38	50	24	27	27	8
West Midlands	2	n/a	178	n/a	89	117	94	102	64	92
West Yorkshire	141	n/a	194	n/a	99	81	79	68	47	55
Wiltshire	14	n/a	7	n/a	3	27	1	17	2	23
Total	2,377	n/a	2,395	n/a	1,498	1,844	1,182	1,534	1,054	1,013

n/a = Not available

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[2] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons, introduced on 1 April 2004, may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

[3] Data for BB guns/soft air weapons have been separately collected only since 1 April 2004. Prior to that they were included within the 'imitation weapons' total.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the proportion of occurrences of alcohol-related disorders that may be attributed to the sale by *(a)* supermarkets and off licences and *(b)* pubs and other licensed premises of alcohol to under 18 year olds. [187291]

Jacqui Smith: The arrests collection held by the Ministry of Justice covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. Summary offences of 'being drunk and disorderly' are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued in Cheshire since 2004 for *(a)* being drunk and disorderly in a public place, *(b)* selling alcohol to a person who is drunk, *(c)* supplying alcohol to a person under 18 years old, *(d)* buying or attempting to buy alcohol on behalf of a person under 18 years old, *(e)* being drunk on a highway, *(f)* consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 years old, *(g)* allowing the consumption of alcohol by a person who is under 18 years old on relevant premises and *(h)* buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18 years old. [204405]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested on penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued in Cheshire police force area is provided in the following table.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for selected offences, Cheshire police force area 2004-06[1]

Offence description	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
(a) Being drunk and disorderly In a public place.	409	190	125
(b) Selling alcohol to a person who is drunk[2].	n/a	[4]—	[4]—
(c) Supplying alcohol to a person under 18 years old[3].	[4]—	7	1
(d) Buying or attempting to buy alcohol on behalf of a person under 18 years old.	2	4	3
(e) Being drunk in a highway.	13	13	4
(f) Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 years old[3].	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
(g) Allowing the consumption of alcohol by a person who is under 18 years old on relevant premises[3]	[4]—	1	[4]—
(h) Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18 years old.	n/a	[4]—	4

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offences added to the PND scheme on the 1 April 2005.

[3] Offences added to the PND scheme on the 1 November 2004.

[4] Nil.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which countries the UK imported non-human primates for the purposes of scientific research in the last 12 months. [207499]

Meg Hillier: Non-human primates for the purpose of scientific research were imported from the following countries during the last 12 months.

China;

Vietnam;

Mauritius;

Israel; and

Netherlands.

Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* drug dealers, *(b)* people dealing in counterfeit currency and *(c)* people dealing in counterfeit goods in England and Wales. [205641]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Recently published Home Office figures estimate that there may be around 3,300 drug importers and wholesalers operating in the UK market at any time. The Home Office has made no estimates for dealers in counterfeit currency or counterfeit goods.

Firearms

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of illegal firearms in England and Wales. [206485]

Jacqui Smith: There is currently no reliable method of assessing how many illegal firearms are held. Any estimate is unverifiable and likely to be misleading.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* firearms, *(b)* imitation firearms and *(c)* knives were seized by officers (i) on the street, (ii) from vehicles, (iii) from residential properties and (iv) from other properties in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [206487]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The National Ballistics Intelligence Database, which is currently being implemented, will in future provide improved information on firearms seized by police in England and Wales.

Firearms: Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many women were charged with firearms offences in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; [206482]

(2) how many people under the age of *(a)* 30, *(b)* 21, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 16 years were charged with firearms offences in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [206483]

Jacqui Smith: The requested data are not available centrally.

Genetics: Cross Border Cooperation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 32WS, on the Justice and Home Affairs Council, what estimate she has made of the annual cost of providing DNA data to European partners under Prüm Treaty obligations. [205601]

Jacqui Smith: The UK is not a party to the Prüm Treaty but the Government have agreed, within the Justice and Home Affairs Council, a Council Decision on the sharing of DMA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data. This is awaiting adoption. In negotiating that measure, the Government estimated the start up costs for UK implementation to be £31 million including running costs estimated to be £2.5 million for the first year.

Identity Cards: Aviation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from trade unions on the issue of identity cards to airside staff. [203858]

Meg Hillier: Consultation is under way on the proposal to start issuing identity cards to people working at airports as set out in the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan published on 6 March 2008. As part of this consultation, discussions are continuing with trade unions whose members work airside.

Identity Cards: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the likely cost to local authorities for *(a)* IT equipment, *(b)* staff training and *(c)* other costs required for the use of national identity cards for the Government's aims of reducing (i) council tax, (ii) voter registration and (iii) other frauds; and whether these costs are planned to be met by central Government. [203832]

Meg Hillier: Local authorities already require individuals to provide proof of identity in order to access many services. Identity cards will be more convenient and secure than the array of documents that are currently used to prove identity, thus making the process more efficient from the very beginning.

Linked to the National Identity Register, identity cards will provide a range of levels of identity verification, the majority of which will be a basic visual check of the card and not all transactions will require a check against the register.

It will be the responsibility of local authorities to decide what level of identity verification they require and if they wish to invest in equipment, such as card readers, or identity verification services provided by the Identity and Passport Service.

Imitation Guns

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many injuries were caused by each type of imitation firearm in each of the last five years. [206488]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of crimes recorded in England and Wales in which imitation firearms caused injury, by being fired or used as a blunt instrument from 2002-03 up to and including 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

Breakdowns by type of weapon for 2002-03 and 2003-04 are not available centrally.

Crimes recorded in which imitation firearms were used[1] and caused injury, by weapon type: England and Wales, 2002-03[3] to 2006-07

Imitation weapon type[2]	*2002/03[3]*	*2003/04*	*2004/05[4]*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Imitation handgun	n/a	n/a	47	41	36
BB gun/soft air weapon	n/a	n/a	1,844	1,534	1,013
Deactivated firearm	n/a	n/a	nil	2	nil
Blank firer	n/a	n/a	9	4	5
Other imitation	n/a	n/a	17	27	14
Total	655	816	1,917	1,608	1,068

n/a = not available

[1] By being fired or used as a blunt instrument.

[2] Information on type of imitation firearm has been collected centrally only since April 2004.

[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[4] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

National Identity Register

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how individuals will be able to *(a)* check whether information about them saved on the National Identity Register, including their audit log, is accurate and *(b)* update their records held on the National Identity Register; [202759]

(2) in what circumstances *(a)* addresses and *(b)* other information on the National Identity Register may be made available to databases held by other Government Departments or agencies; [202760]

(3) by what means an individual's identity will be verified using the National Identity Register. [202764]

Meg Hillier: Individuals will be able to contact the Identity and Passport Service in order to check that their National Identity Register record is up to date and amend it as necessary. They will also be able to apply for a copy of the information held about them on the register, including the audit record, through a subject access request under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Identity Cards Act 2006 provides that public authorities listed in the Act and to be specified in secondary legislation or, with the individual's consent, private organisations may be provided with information from the National Identity Register to verify an individual's identity. The exact way in which such identity verification services will be provided has yet to be finalised.

Passports: Interviews

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average cost of a face-to-face passport interview has been; [202851]

(2) how many face-to-face passport interviews have been conducted since the procedure was introduced. [202852]

Jacqui Smith: The average cost, excluding depreciation is about £74 per interview. Once the interview network is complete and operating at full capacity, I would be in a position to provide detail on numbers of customers interviewed. These costs are spread across all passport customers rather than being recovered solely from first time adult applicants.

During the past 12 months there has been a gradual build-up in capacity of the interview office network. The following shows the number of interviews conducted during this period of roll-out of the new capability:

Interview office	*Passport interviews completed*
Aberdeen	455
Aberystwyth	167
Andover	390
Armagh	227
South Molton	186
Belfast	1,789
Berwick on Tweed	97
Birmingham	6,901
Blackburn	1,489
Sleaford	221
Bournemouth	774
Bristol	1,309
Bury St. Edmunds	435
Redruth	304
Carlisle	417
Chelmsford	1,752
Cheltenham	954
Coleraine	384
Crawley	1,157
Derby	1,867
Dover	537
Dumfries	172
Dundee	518
Edinburgh	1,138
Exeter	718
Selkirk	83
Glasgow	3,659
Brighton	0
Inverness	237
Ipswich	821
Kendal	420
Kings Lynn	294
Kingston-upon-Hull	1,056
Leeds	4,010
Leicester	1,309
Lincoln	993
Liverpool	3,471
London	24,633
Luton	1,789
Maidstone	1,205
Manchester	5,829
Middlesbrough	1,603
Newcastle	3,398
Newport	3,343
Newport IOW	207

Interview office	*Passport interviews completed*
Ripon	159
Northampton	1,062
Norwich	732
Oban	0
Omagh	181
Oxford	664
Peterborough	1,873
Plymouth	821
Portsmouth	1,638
Reading	1,778
Scarborough	256
Sheffield	3,229
Shrewsbury	647
St. Austell	236
Stirling	433
Stoke on Trent	1,455
Swansea	1,098
Swindon	517
Warwick	864
Wick	65
Wrexham	733
Yeovil	637
York	430

Religious Freedom: Islam

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of UK citizens receiving police protection in England and Wales as a result of converting from the Islamic faith. [208794]

Mr. Coaker: Managing risk of harm in individual cases is an operational matter for the police.

Touting: Tickets

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 479W, on touting: tickets, if she will place a copy of the report from the UK football policing unit in the Library. [208342]

Mr. Coaker: This was an operational police report produced for internal use only and it would not be appropriate for it to be placed in the Library. However the key information other than sensitive operation detail was included in a letter to the hon. Member from the Director of the UK Football Policing Unit. I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 202188, tabled by the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey on 23 April 2008, on parking tickets issued by community support officers. [207661]

Mr. Coaker: I replied to the hon. Member on 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 385W.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Leader of the House whether she has issued guidance to staff in her Office to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if she will make a statement. [208179]

Helen Goodman: Yes. All staff, contractors and security guards are instructed to switch off PCs and monitors when not in use. This is part of a wider and continuing sustainable development programme, which also includes night time energy audits of buildings.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Leader of the House how much food waste her Office generated in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [208144]

Helen Goodman: It is the policy of the Office to the Leader of the House of Commons not to waste food.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what contracts have been awarded to businesses based in the London borough of Bexley through the Olympic Delivery Authority. [204916]

Tessa Jowell: To date, the Olympic Delivery Authority has awarded four contracts to businesses registered in the London borough of Bexley: these have been for elevators and moving stairways, local trucking, electric lamps and travel agencies services.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Australia and Canada: Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what costs the Government met for each official visit made by *(a)* Her Majesty the Queen and *(b)* other members of the Royal Family to (i) Australia and (ii) Canada in each of the last five years. [207706]

Meg Munn: Costs for official visits by Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the royal family to Australia and Canada are met by the respective Governments of those countries.

Chevening

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Chevening Trust Deed. [205407]

Meg Munn: The administration of the Chevening Estate is not governed by a deed of trust, but by the Chevening Estate Acts of 1959 and 1987.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the selection criteria used for Chevening Scholarships tenable in 2008-09; and how these criteria differ from those which were applied in the allocation of Commonwealth Scholarships. [207207]

Mr. Jim Murphy: A copy of the selection criteria for Chevening scholarships will be placed in the Library of the House. The essential difference is that the key criterion for eligibility for Chevening scholarships is the greatest potential to be a future leader with the capacity to benefit the UK, whereas the criteria for Commonwealth scholarships include a mixture of academic merit, leadership potential and the quality of the study plan.

Commonwealth Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the changes in funding for Commonwealth scholarships announced on 23 March 2008. [207500]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 366W, and to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) on 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1103W.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people from each country received funding under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in each of the last five years. [207611]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1246-47W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in his Department were aged *(a)* 20 to 30, *(b)* 31 to 40, *(c)* 41 to 50, *(d)* 51 to 60 and *(e)* over 60 years, in the last period for which figures are available. [207926]

David Miliband: The following table lists the number of UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO services at 1 April 2008 in each of the age groups specified:

Age band (years)	*Number of staff*
20-30	1,115
31-40	1,916
41-50	1,733
51-60	972
Over 60	133
Total	5,869

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the refreshed E3+3 proposals of 6th June 2006 on Iran's nuclear programme to be formally presented to the government of Iran; and if he will make a statement. [207809]

David Miliband: We are still waiting for the Iranians to respond to Javier Solana with a date for him to meet Foreign Minister Mottaki in Tehran in order to present our refreshed offer to the Government of Iran. We have made clear that we want this meeting to take place as soon as possible.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Iranian compliance with efforts by International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors to verify Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [207928]

David Miliband: The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. ElBaradei, issued a report on Iran's nuclear activities on 26 May. The report says that Iran has failed to suspend enrichment-related activities, has made no progress on the transparency measures the UN Security Council and the IAEA have called for and has failed to answer the IAEA's questions relating to studies with a possible military dimension. It notes that the alleged studies are a matter of "serious concern" and that "clarification of these is critical to an assessment of the nature of Iran's past and present nuclear programme". We have called on Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA, fulfil its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions and to implement the additional protocol.

Iraq: Diplomatic Service

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of the UK diplomatic presence in Iraq was in each year from 1998 to 2007. [207692]

Dr. Howells: The cost of the UK diplomatic presence in Iraq each year from 1998 to 2007 was as follows:

	£ million
1998 to 2001	[1]—
2001-2002	[2]<0.1
2002-2003	[2]0.4
2003-2004	5.5
2004-2005	[3]45.5
2005-2006	[3]54.7

	£ million
2006-2007	[3]88.6
2007-2008	[3]49.7

[1] Data on costs prior to 2001 are not held in a format that would enable us to answer the question without incurring disproportionate cost.

[2] Iraq costs for 2001-02 and 2002-03 are relatively small because the UK was not represented in Baghdad at the time, our embassy having closed in January 1991.

[3] Iraq costs from 2004-05 to 2007-08 include the costs of supporting other Government Departments for which the FCO is reimbursed.

Notes:

1. The figures listed include all direct and indirect Post expenditure, including money spent by the centre on behalf of Posts, including:
Administrative costs;
Staff costs (UK based and locally engaged); and
Programme costs (for example, the Global Opportunities Fund and the Global Conflict Prevention Pool).

2. The figures listed do not include the following:
A share of central Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) overhead;
Depreciation;
Cost of Capital;
A share of impairment costs; and
Post income (Visa, Consular and other receipts).

Source:
FCO's Expenditure Allocation Report which shows a detailed breakdown of the costs of all FCO posts.

Japan: Cereals

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the *(a)* Government of Japan and *(b)* US Administration on releasing the stores of US grain held in Japan. [207452]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote on 8 April to Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda, as Chair of the Group of Eight leading industrialised nations (G8), to highlight the impact of rising food prices and asked that this issue be put on the agenda of the G8 summit. Prime Minister Fukuda has agreed to do so and has written to the UN Secretary-General and to the President of the World Bank on the issue.

Our officials have and will continue to work with the Japanese and US Governments on the issues raised in my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's letter, including on Japanese plans relating to its strategic rice reserve.

Overseas Students: Scholarships

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what evidence he obtained from his recent review of his Department's funded scholarships enabling valid comparisons to be made of the respective past records of Chevening and his Department's funded Commonwealth scholarships in producing future leaders in the countries where they both operate; and if he will publish this evidence. [207243]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are eminent alumni both of the Chevening scholarship scheme and of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funded Commonwealth scholarships in the countries in which both schemes operate, but the FCO has not made comparisons between them.

Pakistan: Terrorism

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1815W, on Pakistan: terrorism, (1) what the Government's policy is on dealing with allegations of mistreatment made by British nationals in Pakistani custody; and if he will make a statement; [207357]

(2) whether any of the six detainees are still in Pakistani detention; [207358]

(3) in how many of the six cases the detainees were visited by other British officials; [207359]

(4) whether allegations of mistreatment other than those made to UK officials were taken into account in providing the Answer; [207360]

(5) for what reasons consular access was not sought in each of the six cases. [207361]

Dr. Howells: The Government take allegations of mistreatment very seriously. Where allegations of mistreatment are made by British nationals in Pakistani custody or following release from Pakistani custody and when we are asked to do so by the individual affected, we can raise those allegations with the appropriate authorities.

Of the six detainees referred to in the earlier answer, one remains in Pakistani custody.

British officials sought and were granted access to the two mono-British nationals. Priority was given to the welfare of the detainees.

The answer provided to the earlier question, 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1815W, does not take into account allegations of mistreatment other than those made to UK officials.

Consular access was not sought in all of the six cases, as four of the individuals were dual Pakistani/British nationals in the country of their other nationality. The Pakistani authorities are under no obligation to inform us of the detention of a dual Pakistani/British national or to provide consular access. We are exceptionally seeking access to one dual national in accordance with our published policy on the death penalty, but this is yet to be given.

Uganda: Peace Negotiations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* UK representatives in Uganda have had discussions with elected political representatives of the Northern Uganda districts during the Juba peace talks process; and if he will make a statement. [207482]

Meg Munn: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and other Government Ministries, both in London and in Uganda, have had frequent meetings with elected representatives, both national and local, from the Northern Uganda districts over the period of the Juba peace talks. These meetings were aimed at helping to develop a clear picture of the opinions and thoughts of those who have been affected by the conflict in the region.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the impact on the sustainability of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Uganda of the time taken to sign it. [207507]

Meg Munn: The draft Final Peace Agreement, between the Ugandan Government and the Lord's Resistance Army, represents a considerable achievement. The Government have called for it to be signed as soon as possible while recognising that full implementation will depend on the agreement of all parties.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the ability of the Uganda Special Court to provide trials for the leaders of the Lords Resistance Army in accordance with the principles of international humanitarian law; and whether the Government has offered legal advice to the Government of Uganda on the constitution of the Uganda Special Court. [207543]

Meg Munn: As the Final Peace Agreement between the Ugandan Government and the Lord's Resistance Army has yet to be signed, the method of justice for those that perpetrated war crimes and human rights abuses during the conflict has not been finally agreed. Should a special division of the Ugandan High Court be established, the Government will press for it to be fully compatible with the Rome Statute and international law. The Government have not provided nor offered any legal advice to the Ugandan Government.

Zimbabwe: Arms Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to press countries of the Southern African Development Community to commit themselves to preventing arms transfers to Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [207849]

David Miliband: The EU and US have an embargo on the sale of arms to Zimbabwe. We encourage all countries to adopt this approach and support the call for a temporary moratorium on all arms sales until Zimbabwe has a democratic Government in place.

We have lobbied the Chinese about the sale of arms to Zimbabwe and we, and other EU partners, have lobbied southern African Governments. We also raised this in the UN Security Council on 29 April 2008.

Zimbabwe: Economic Situation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his European counterparts on taking steps against the *(a)* manufacture and *(b)* transfer of paper for the printing of Zimbabwe dollar bearer cheques by European countries. [207484]

Meg Munn: We have discussed the manufacture and supply of paper for the printing of Zimbabwean bearer cheques with the German government. It is a matter for them to decide on how to proceed.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request the European Commission to investigate whether the delivery of paper by MK Airline for the printing of Zimbabwe dollar bearer cheques is in breach of EU rules relating to Zimbabwe. [207485]

Meg Munn: The EU targeted measures consist of a travel ban and assets freeze against 131 named individuals and an arms embargo. There are no economic sanctions against Zimbabwe and therefore nothing to investigate in this instance.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to seek to help ensure that the second round of Presidential elections in Zimbabwe is free and fair; and if he will make a statement. [207806]

David Miliband: It is vital that election observers are deployed to Zimbabwe as soon as possible. Their presence will help deter the current high levels of political violence. The Southern African Development Community and the African Union have a crucial role to play in providing observers in sufficient numbers. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, and I, have stressed this with African and other international leaders, and we will maintain close contact with them in the run up to polling day.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the establishment of a UN mission to Zimbabwe to monitor human rights; and if he will make a statement. [207808]

David Miliband: In our contacts with the UN Secretary-General, we continue to encourage the UN to send an envoy or mission to Zimbabwe to monitor the worsening human rights situation in that country. This is urgently needed before the presidential election on 27 June.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the financial solvency of the Zimbabwe government. [207483]

Meg Munn: It is impossible to know the full extent of the financial solvency of the government of Zimbabwe for varied reasons including lack of disclosure on public finances and debt. The country's economy is in ruins through the economic and political mismanagement of Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF government. But we do know the policy of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to continue printing money is a major driver of the country's hyper-inflation which, according to leaked government sources, had reached 355,000 per cent. in March.

Zimbabwe: Trade Unions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Zimbabwe on the treatment of trade unionists in that country, with particular reference to trades union leaders Lovemore Matombo and Wellington Chibebe; and if he will make a statement. [207196]

Meg Munn: We, along with EU colleagues, regularly raise our concerns about human rights with the Government of Zimbabwe. Sadly, they have disregarded our calls for respect of the rule of law and the cessation of violence and intimidation of those who have stood up for their rights.

In spite of the challenges they face, ordinary members of civil society including trade union members remain committed to democratic change in Zimbabwe. We applaud their efforts to effect change through peaceful and legitimate means. Government officials carefully monitor the situation, including the extent of human rights abuses.

Zimbabwe: Weapons

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on whether the cargo of weapons from China destined for Zimbabwe has been delivered to that country. [207486]

Meg Munn: We were given assurances by the relevant governments that no official shipment of arms had been allowed; however, we are aware of media reports that the arms shipment has been delivered and are making enquiries to establish the accuracy of the information.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Conferences

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(b)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(c)* Arts Council England, *(d)* Sport England, *(e)* UK Sport and *(f)* the UK Film Council spent on conferences in each of the last three years; and what percentage of each was funded out of National Lottery income. [206726]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 May 2008]*: Figures for the amount spent on conferences in each of the last three years, and the percentage that was funded out of national lottery income, as provided by the bodies in question, are as follows:

	Cost 2007-08 (£) (Percentage out of national lottery income)	*Cost 2006-07 (£) (Percentage out of national lottery income)*	*Cost 2005-06 (£) (Percentage out of national lottery income)*
Big Lottery Fund	45,121 (100)	34,526 (100)	142,120 (100)
Heritage Lottery Fund	85,359 (100)	0 (100)	74,174 (100)
Sport England	266,404 (56)	67,300 (56)	92,816 (56)
UK Sport	434,936 (0)	498,709 (0)	382,084 (0)
UK Film Council	39,344 (0)	5,487 (0)	78,396 (0)

Figures for Arts Council England could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent employees were in post in his Department in each year since 1997, broken down by division. [208261]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is in the following table.

	Number
2004	
Director—Davey	3.8
Director—Roche	2.0
Architecture and Historic Environment	36.6
Arts	21.0
Culture Online	7.7
Govt Art Collection	16.0
Libraries and Communities	24.0

	Number
Museums, Galleries and Cultural Props	41.1
Olympic Games Unit	9.6
Sports	28.0
Director General—Kenny	2.0
Communications	20.4
Director General—Ramsay	2.0
Director—Leonard	2.0
Broadcasting Policy	36.0
Creative Industries	21.0
Gambling and National Lottery	16.0
National Lottery	18.4
Tourism	29.6
Director General—Holgate	1.0
Finance and Planning	22.2
Internal Audit	4.0
Public Appointments and Honours	14.1
Personnel Central Services	42.4
Private Office	37.0
Strategy and Policy	16.8
Analytical Services	14.4
Trade Union	1.0
Contingency Fund	8.0
Total	498.2
2005	
Director General—Jacobs	2.0
Director—Davey	3.0
Director—Roche	2.0
Architecture and Historic Environment	37.8
Arts	25.4
Culture Online	10.1
Govt Art Collection	16.0
Libraries and Communities	25.0
Museums, Galleries and Cultural Props	34.7
Olympic Games Unit	14.3
Sports	31.4
Group Strategy unit	5.0
Director General—Kenny	1.6
Communications	20.5
Director General—Ramsay	3.0
Director—Leonard	2.0
Broadcasting Policy	39.0
Creative Industries	21.0
Gambling and National Lottery	16.9
National Lottery	14.4
Tourism	31.6
Economic Impact	0.0
Director General—Holgate	3.0
Director—Bolt	2.0
Finance and Planning	22.3
Internal Audit	4.0
Public Appointments and Honours	15.0
Human and Business Resources	44.4
Private Office	32.0
Strategy	26.3
Trade Union	1.0
Total	506.8
July 2006	
Director General—Jacobs	2.0
Director—Davey	4.0
Director—Roche	2.0
Architecture and Historic Environment	38.4
Arts	21.8
Culture Online	4.0
Govt Art Collection	15.1
Local Regional and Int	17.0
Museums, Galleries and Cultural Props	34.0
Govt Olympic Exec	29.9
Sports	30.6
Humanitarian Assistance Unit	7.0
Group Strategy unit	4.8
Director—Feeney	1.3
Communications	24.1
Information Services	16.7
Comms, Information and Briefing	16.8
Director General—Ramsay	2.9
Director—Leonard	2.0
Broadcasting Policy	34.0
Creative Industries	22.0
Gambling and National Lottery	15.7
National Lottery	12.4
Tourism	28.0
Economic Impact	2.0
Director General—Holgate	3.0
Director—Roe	1.0
Finance and Planning	16.0
Public Bodies	16.0
Human and Business Resources	28.3
Private Office	30.4
Strategy	26.3
Trade Union	1.0
Olympic Programme Support Unit	7.0
Total	517.5
2007	
Director General—Jacobs	3.0
Director—Charlesworth	0.8
GovtOlympicExec	34.2
Sports	34.7
Group Strategy unit	2.0
Director—Feeney	2.0
Communications	22.8
Maternity Leave (Com)	2.0
Information Services	16.5
Comms, Information and Briefing	16.6
Director General—Ramsay	3.9
Director—Leonard	2.0
Director—Davey	6.6
Broadcasting Policy	30.6
Creative Industries	20.8

	Number
Gambling and National Lottery	17.0
National Lottery	10.4
Tourism	28.9
Economic Impact	2.0
Govt Art Collection	13.8
Local Regional and International	16.9
Museums, Galleries and Cultural Props	30.0
Humanitarian Assistance Unit	7.0
Architecture and Historic Environment	35.4
Arts	18.8
Culture Online	0.0
Active Generation Team	5.0
Director General—Holgate	4.0
Director—Roe	1.0
Finance and Planning	16.7
Public Bodies	18.0
Human and Business Resources	28.9
Private Office	31.0
Strategy	25.3
Trade Union	1.0
Olympic Prog Support Unit	6.0
Total	515.4
2008	
Director General—Ramsay	8.1
Director—Leonard	2.0
Director—Davey	4.0
Director—Charlesworth	1.0
Broadcasting Policy	26.0
Creative Industries	15.0
Gambling and National Lottery	9.0
Tourism	22.8
Govt Art Collection	14.7
Libraries and Communities	25.0
Museums, Galleries and Cultural Props	26.0
Humanitarian Assistance Unit	5.6
Architecture and Historic Environment	29.8
Arts	19.8
Sports	28.0
Active Generation Team	4.6
Contingency (CCE)	7.7
World Cup 2018	2.0
Director—Feeney	1.3
Communications	16.6
Information Services	15.5
Comms, Information and Briefing	15.6
Director General—Holgate	2.0
Finance and Planning	19.0
Public Bodies	10.0
Human and Business Resources	24.6
Private Office	28.0
Strategy	18.6
Transformation	8.3
Government Olympic Executive	51.2
Total	461.6

Notes:
1. Aggregated information down to this level of detail is not available prior to 2004.
2. Except where stated the information provided is on 1 April each year.
3. There have been many changes to the structure of the Department since 1997-including amalgamation of divisions.
4. Staff who are unpaid i.e. on long term leave are not included.
5. Staff on maternity leave are not included.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208389]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table sets out the number and proportion of male, female, ethnic minority and disabled staff employed in DCMS. Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information on non-heterosexual staff as the Department only started monitoring this equality strand at the end of 2006. It will take the Department approximately five years to build up any meaningful data.

	Number	*Percentage*
Male	257	54
Female	220	46
Ethnic Minority	57	13
Disabled	14	3

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Department's total grant-in-aid funding of *(a)* English Heritage, *(b)* the Museums and Libraries Association, *(c)* the Arts Council, *(d)* Sport England, *(e)* UK Sport, *(f)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(g)* the UK Film Council was in each year since 1997-98. [208267]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is in the following table.

£000

					Published outturn					
Body	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
English Heritage	105,183	102,404	112,609	119,000	110,401	116,387	119,442	127,901	129,136	141,321

£000

Body	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	Published outturn 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Museums, Libraries and Archive Council	Established on 30 November 1999		104	13,164	12,210	14,276	13,408	13,458	14,174	15,793
Arts Council	179,026	179,337	212,248	238,179	252,455	290,405	325,955	369,859	409,178	427,862
Sport England	33,768	33,289	37,523	38,323	43,162	80,324	44,572	74,456	80,971	104,245
UK Sport	11,824	11,600	12,600	12,750	16,733	16,321	23,175	23,500	29,305	53,105
UK Film Council	Came into operation October 1999		552	21,760	20,860	24,110	24,110	24,910	24,110	26,610
Heritage Lottery Fund	We do not provide grant-in-aid to the Heritage Lottery Fund									

National Lottery: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each national lottery and Olympic lottery distributor received from the National Lottery Distribution Fund and the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 1997-98.[1] [208266]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lottery distributors draw down from the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) and the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) to pay funds to successful grant applicants and meet administrative expenses. The amounts draw down are shown in the following tables. These amounts are not the same as the income raised by the national lottery and held on the distributors behalf in the NLDF and OLDF.

The Olympic lottery distributor draw down only from the OLDF and the other distributors only from the NLDF.

£000

Financial year	Arts Council England	UK Film Council	Arts Council Northern Ireland	Scottish Arts Council	Arts Council of Wales	Community Fund	Heritage Lottery Fund	Millennium Cms
1997-98	316,128	—	3,179	23,799	12,855	217,337	133,207	192,270
1998-99	320,057	—	4,261	25,295	15,941	271,437	195,800	397,969
1999-2000	208,815	—	9,342	26,079	14,960	373,229	277,162	622,483
2000-01	218,912	7,337	6,166	27,171	11,147	404,050	289,677	446,604
2001-02	218,287	10,393	6,026	25,259	10,719	384,471	262,040	203,859
2002-03	178,533	24,498	7,174	15,822	15,549	352,214	264,828	190,477
2003-04	182,631	59,671	6,417	25,761	18,086	310,182	323,792	67,820
2004-05	219,984	29,370	8,248	23,660	16,175	272,782	308,268	53,999
2005-06	191,968	35,967	10,963	22,374	11,087	240,615	374,283	52,113
2006-07	147,152	28,036	15,459	19,633	15,539	182,225	367,196	18,005

£000

Financial Year	New Opportunities Fund	Sport England	Sports Northern Ireland	Sport Scotland	UK Sport	Sports Council for Wales	Scottish Screen	Big Lottery Fund	Olympic Lottery Distributor
1997-98	0	152,846	7,987	16,221	—	11,238	—	—	—
1998-99	2,408	357,162	6,323	19,273	—	14,622	—	—	—
1999-2000	59,483	250,686	10,323	25,645	—	14,677	—	—	—
2000-01	150,200	231,558	5,107	25,894	22,152	7,829	—	—	—
2001-02	225,250	297,500	5,213	23,166	22,036	10,318	4,021	—	—
2002-03	462	307,958	5,666	17,396	25,842	20,632	4,2[illegible]1	—	—
2003-04	598	237,400	3,904	33,[illegible]6	19,830	20,770	2,642	—	—
2004-05	530	170,700	5,939	28,977	17,075	18,888	226	—	—
2005-06	637,200	202,100	6,651	23,524	19,147	12,662	2,901	—	33
2006-07	344	121,400	7,976	21,898	46,852	10,649	1,773	264,142	55,713

Sports: Drugs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the plans for the establishment of a National Anti-Doping Agency referred to in his Department's Corporate Plan have been approved. [208221]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Plans for the new National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) remain under discussion between the Department and UK Sport.

World Creative Business Summit

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the World Creative Business summit steering group will be established; and when the first world creative business summit will take place. [207781]

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[1] [Official Report, 10 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 2MC.]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 2 June 2008]*: In our strategy for the creative economy, 'Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy', published in February 2008, we announced that we would initiate the launch of the World Creative Business Conference.

We have now appointed an events agency (Acclaim) and a public relations agency (Edelman) to help fulfil this commitment. There are currently no plans to set up a steering group.

Our intention is that the first World Creative Business Conference should take place in late 2009.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201765]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office received 379 questions since the start of this Session (up to Friday 25 April). The average time taken to answer a question over that period was 6.3 days.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department paid in jobseekers allowance in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* Government Office region; [203280]

(2) how much his Department paid in incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* Government Office region; [203281]

(3) how much his Department paid in income support to working age households in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* Government Office region; [203282]

(4) how much his Department paid in out-of-work benefits in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* Government Office region. [203285]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information on expenditure by constituency and local authority could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The available national and regional information has been placed in the Library.

Children: Support

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for what reasons the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be required to obtain court permission to confiscate driving licences; [206871]

(2) what reasons the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be able to confiscate travel documents of non-payers of child support on its own authority. [206858]

Mr. Plaskitt: Disqualification from driving for failure to pay statutory maintenance is an established part of the child maintenance enforcement process and there has been wide agreement that the surrender of a passport, or in some cases the travel element of an ID card, would be a useful tool to gain compliance from some non-resident parents.

The Child Maintenance White Paper in December 2006 said that we were exploring whether to make disqualification from driving and the surrender of travel documents an administrative process and these options were seriously considered. However, we have acknowledged concerns raised in relation to passports during the passage of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill that these should not be administrative measures.

Subject to passage of the Bill, the Commission will be able to apply to the court to disqualify the non-resident parent from holding or obtaining a travel authorisation or from driving.

However, we want the Commission to be able to vigorously pursue those who are not discharging their legal and moral duties to support their children and we will continue to explore whether these decisions need to be made by the court or could be more effectively made administratively.

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what resources his Department makes available to Citizens Advice Bureaux to provide benefits advice and debt advice. [206770]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department does not core fund the Citizens Advice organisation, or other advice agencies, but we do work very closely with Citizens Advice to provide their advisers with information about the services that my Department delivers. This includes a quarterly magazine and information on our advisers website, and we also help quality assure information they make available to their advisers through their CABnet information system.

At agency level, Jobcentre Plus has a Partnership Agreement with Citizens Advice, and they are a key partner for the Pensions, Disability and Carers Services in work around pension credit take-up.

We do on occasion provide funding for specific initiatives that support the Department's aims and objectives. Most recently, £1.65 million in funding was provided to 24 bureaux, for the period March 2005 to February 2007, from the Department's Partnership Fund, which was aimed at encouraging initiatives to support the take up of pension credit.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to prevent security breaches in his Department. [206675]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The Department takes its responsibilities for the protection of personal data extremely seriously, and has in place a number of technical safeguards, rules, and clear standards of behaviour for all staff. These are designed to protect all assets, including information. They are regularly reviewed in the light of events.

On 21 November 2007, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that he had asked the Cabinet Secretary to work with Departments to ensure that they check their procedures for the storage and use of data.

Since then the Department has worked closely with the Cabinet Office, and has already implemented a number of improved controls to reduce the risk of security breaches. Particular improvements include increased staff awareness of information risks; new controls over the physical movement of personal data; encryption of all laptop computers; introduction of encrypted media where data movements cannot be made electronically; and new IT controls which prevent staff who handle personal customer data from copying onto unencrypted media.

Jobcentre Plus: Dorset

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers in Dorset and Somerset used the out-of-hours service that Jobcentre Plus operates on behalf of his Department in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [206553]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 4 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the number of customers in Dorset and Somerset who used the Out of Hours Service that Jobcentre Plus operates on behalf of his Department in each of the last six months for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Since October 2007 there have been 203 referrals to the Out of Hours Service in Dorset and Somerset. Of these referrals 88 were 'effective', i.e. resulted in a visit because they were appropriate referrals.

The information available is set out in the table below.

	Referrals	*Visits*	*Percentage of calls resulting in visit*
October 2007	26	13	50
November 2007	20	12	60
December 2007	62	20	32
January 2008	29	10	34
February 2008	33	14	42
March 2008	33	19	58
Total	203	88	43

Source:
Collected locally by South West Out of Hours Service and this format may not be compatible with information collected by other Out of Hours offices.

Since the Out of Hours Service was established we have radically changed the way we deliver our services. There is now easier access to Crisis Loans and efficient telephony channels for customers to resolve any problems with benefit and pension claims. The introduction of direct payment into bank accounts has almost eliminated the non-receipt/loss of benefit payments. These changes have dramatically reduced the need for Out of Hours emergency payments, especially during the week. As a result, with effect from 12 May 2008, the Out of Hours Service is now only available at weekends, statutory holidays and when there are exceptional circumstances resulting in an office closure.

Jobcentre Plus: Working Hours

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people used the out-of-hours service that Jobcentre Plus operates on behalf of his Department during week-day evenings in the last six months for which figures are available. [206554]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 4 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many people used the Out of Hours Service that Jobcentre Plus operates on behalf of his Department during week-day evenings in the last six months for which figures are available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As management information collected on Out of Hours Service may not have been consistent across offices, a three month sampling exercise was undertaken as part of the review of the Out of Hours Service. It was found during this period that on average 556 calls were made nationally to the Out of Hours Service which resulted in an average of 242 visits being made to customers each week. The proportion of these calls that occurred between Monday to Thursday was 15% which equates to an average of 40 visits to customers per week.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of exemptions from the New Deal in each year since 1997; [203276]

(2) for what reasons a person may be exempted from the New Deal. [203277]

Mr. Timms: No estimate has been made of the number of exemptions from the New Deal since 1997 as this information is not recorded by the Department. The only exemptions from New Deal are those who request an exemption from being designated as part of a joint claim for Jobseeker's Allowance. For example, if one member of the couple is: responsible for a child or young person; a carer; studying full-time; incapable of work through illness or disability; living in a care home; registered blind; incapable of work because of pregnancy; a refugee learning English; required to attend a court or tribunal as part of the proceedings; or involved in a trade dispute, only one member of the couple would need to meet the conditions for them to receive the couple rate of Jobseeker's Allowance. The other member would be a 'dependant partner'. In this scenario, only the member of the couple required to meet the Jobseeker's Allowance conditions would be required to participate in New Deal.

The number of customers excluded from New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus is estimated to be approximately eight in every 1,000 participants. Figures to August 2007 show that around 7,040 customers (0.4 per cent. of a total of 1,725,000 participants) have been excluded from New Deal for Young People since the programme began in January 1998; and around 16,050 customers (1.6 per cent. of a total of 1,033,500 participants) have been excluded from New Deal 25 Plus since the programme began in July 1998.

Customers are excluded from New Deal when their behaviour (which may include verbal or physical assault, threat of assault, or intentional damage to property) poses major difficulties to Jobcentre Plus staff. Managers have the discretion to exclude participants from New Deal if they feel their presence would cause disruption to others. In this instance, every effort is made to refer such customers to organisations who may be able to help them tackle their problem, or to discuss with them whether Jobseeker's Allowance is the appropriate benefit. The circumstances of the small number of participants who have been excluded are reviewed regularly and, where these change, participants can be brought back in to New Deal at the point at which they left.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many companies have appealed against decisions on the amount of their annual contribution to the Pension Protection Fund for 2008-09; how many of those appeals have been successful: and what the average amount by which a contribution has been reduced following a successful appeal is. [208421]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information in relation to the levy year 2008-09 is not available, as invoices for the pension protection levy will not be issued until later this year.

Pathways to Work

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants in Pathways to Work are aged *(a)* under 50 and *(b)* 50 years and over. [208277]

Mr. Timms: Estimates for the number of participants on Pathways to Work are not available.

To October 2007 there have been 733,740 starts to Pathways to Work. Of these starts around 527,000 (72 per cent.) relate to customers who were under the age of 50 at the start of their Pathways to Work spell, around 193,000 (26 per cent.) relate to people over 50, and age information is not recorded for around 14,000 (2 per cent.) of starts.

Rented Housing: Cambridge

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1699W, on rented housing: Cambridge, if he will publish the information contained on the lettings information database for the Broad Market Rental Area within which Cambridge lies. [208360]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Rent Service is preparing the list of rents used for the setting of the local housing allowance (LHA) for all broad rental market areas (BRMA) across England in a format that will allow them to be published on the internet at:

https://lha-direct.therentservice.gov.uk/

and

http://www.therentservice.gov.uk/

These lists will be provided in a graphic format for ease of use and they will be updated monthly at the time of the LHA reviews. The current list for the BRMA that includes Cambridge is in the following table.

The Rent Service (TRS) is committed to collecting private rented sector rents through contacts with private landlords, lettings agents and other sources of lettings information who are representative of the local lettings market. TRS is also committed to collecting a range of lettings information across the whole market that is representative of rent, condition and property type within neighbourhoods across a BRMA.

The broad rental market area including Cambridge

Local housing allowance category	*Range of net rents (weekly)*	*Local housing allowance median (£)*
1 Room (shared)	394 pieces of evidence—from £42.69 to £146.54	75.00
1 Bedroom	596 pieces of evidence—from £32.54 to £323.08	126.92
2 Bedrooms	1,521 pieces of evidence—from £69.00 to £369.23	149.43
3 Bedrooms	1,112 pieces of evidence—from £80.77 to £438.46	173.08
4 Bedrooms	417 pieces of evidence—from £121. 15 to £634.62	253.85
5 Bedrooms	97 pieces of evidence—from £161.54 to £923.08	346.15

Note:
The table includes the range of lettings evidence, collected over a 12-month period that is used to calculate the LHA rates for the BRMA

Social Security Benefits

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the savings limits and tariff income rules are for each category of income-related benefit; and when those levels were last changed. [206691]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

	Lower capital limit (£)	*Upper capital limit (£)*	*Tariff income -weekly rate*
Capital limits and tariff income rates in the income related benefits.			
Income Support	6,000[1]	16,000	£1 per £250

	Lower capital limit (£)	*Upper capital limit (£)*	*Tariff income -weekly rate*
Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance	6,000[1]	16,000	£1 per £250
Pension Credit	6,000[1]	No upper capital limit	£1 per £500
Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit (working age people)	6,000	16,000	£1 per £250
Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit for people who have reached the qualifying age for Pension Credit	6,000	16,000[2]	£1 per £500

Notes:

1. For those in residential accommodation, the lower capital limit is 10,000.

2. Those in receipt of the pension credit guarantee credit are passported onto full housing benefit and/or council tax benefit and the upper capital limit doesn't apply.

From 10 April 2006 the lower capital limit across income support, income.

based jobseeker's allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit was increased from £3,000 to £6,000. At the same time, the upper capital limit for income support and income based jobseeker's allowance was increased to £16,000 from £8,000 in line with housing benefit and council tax benefit. The capital limit in pension credit has not changed since its introduction in October 2003.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of those entitled who do not take up benefit entitlements among (i) pensioners, (ii) working age families with children and (iii) working age families without children in (A) the UK, (B) each region and (C) each local authority area. [206771]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the number of those who do not take-up their entitlement to income-related benefits and the take-up rate, for various groups in Great Britain, are published in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005-06" report. A copy of this and past reports are available in the Library.

Estimates of the number and proportion of those who do not take-up their entitlement are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is therefore not possible to give estimates for each region or local authority in the UK.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in his Department in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207487]

Gillian Merron: Department for International Development (DFID) senior civil service (SCS) members are eligible for a non-consolidated bonus award. Bonuses are intended to reward delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year or other short-term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives. In considering SCS members for bonus, line managers are asked to take into account:

performance against agreed priority business objectives or targets;

total delivery record over the year;

relative stretch (i.e. the challenge of the job compared to that of others); and

response to unforeseen events that affected the performance agreement.

DFID paid a total of £504,000 in non-consolidated performance bonuses to 63 senior civil servants in the 2007-08 financial year in recognition of their performance during the 2006-07 reporting year.

DFID's reward arrangements for the 2007-08 financial year did not allow for the payment of end of year performance bonuses to staff below the senior civil service.

Iraq: Asylum

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Iraqi refugees in *(a)* Syria, *(b)* Lebanon, *(c)* Jordan and *(d)* Iran. [207687]

Mr. Malik: The Office of the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) leads on estimating Iraqi refugee numbers in the region. In their latest April-May situation report, they estimated the following:

Syria -1.2 to 1.5 million Iraqi refugees

Jordan - 450,000 to 500,000

Lebanon - 20,000 to 50,000

Iran - 57,000

UNHCR has registered some 280,000 refugees throughout the region, including 194,273 in Syria and 53,000 in Jordan.

Iraq: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department spent on *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral aid to Iraq in each year since 1998. [207694]

Mr. Malik: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to Iraq since 1998 is laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: Total DFID Bilateral expenditure 2000-01 – 2006-07

	Iraq (£000)
1998-99	5,749
1999-2000	6,585
2000-01	9,545

Table 1: Total DFID Bilateral expenditure 2000-01 – 2006-07

	Iraq (£000)
2001-02	7,760
2002-03	18,853
2003-04	209,313
2004-05	49,107
2005-06	86,869
2006-07	49,569

Table 2: Imputed DFID Share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 2000-01 – 2006-07

	Iraq (£000)
1998-99	1,226
1999-2000	726
2000-01	589
2001-02	1,183
2002-03	2,252
2003-04	10,535
2004-05	9,982
2005-06	5,892
2006-07	13,526

Uganda: Refugees

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives in Uganda have had discussions with the government of Uganda on the closure of internally displaced persons' camps in Northern Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [207480]

Gillian Merron: During his visit to Uganda in November 2007, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, visited internally displaced persons' (IDP) camps and held discussions on a range of issues regarding the return of people to their villages, or settlement in new locations.

The Government of Uganda has recently circulated to development partners its draft "Camp phase out guidelines for all districts that have IDP camps". We and other partners have commented on the draft guidelines and made the point that the return of displaced persons should be voluntary and the displaced persons should actively participate in the planning of the return process as required under international law. These principals have been recognised in the draft guidelines.

HEALTH

Autism: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding was allocated to each English local authority to meet the costs of providing services to adults with autistic spectrum disorders in each of the last five reported years; and if he will make a statement; [206776]

(2) what financial support will be given to local authorities to help meet the cost of supporting projected numbers of adults diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorders in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [206781]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not hold information centrally on allocated funding to each English local authority (LA) to meet the costs of providing services to adults with autistic spectrum disorders.

It is for LAs to determine the level of funding for the next three years from their general allocations. In doing this, they should take into consideration locally identified needs and assessments of individuals.

Benzodiazepines

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on routine prescribing of benzodiazepines on admission to psychiatric wards. [208543]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not commissioned research into the prescription of benzodiazepines on admission to psychiatric wards.

Benzodiazepines: Misuse

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statistics his Department collects on the number of patients experiencing benzodiazepine withdrawal but diagnosed with a psychological disorder. [208542]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Cannabis: Mentally Ill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on potential links between cannabis use and psychosis; [206005]

(2) how many people are being treated in each primary care trust for psychosis arising from regular cannabis use. [206006]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's Policy Research Programme (PRP) has funded a review of the most recent evidence concerning both the impact the use of cannabis has on people with mental health problems, in particular severe mental illness, and effective interventions aimed at reducing such use. The results of the review were published in the Lancet in July 2007 and were available to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs when it recently reviewed the issue of classification.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health: A new national health research strategy" is resulting in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. Copies of the strategy have been placed in the Library. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), set up as part of that implementation process, has awarded a £2 million programme grant to support research on improving physical health and reducing substance use, particularly cannabis use, in severe mental illness. Research on cannabis use and psychosis will also form part of the work programme of the NIHR's South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and Institute of Psychiatry Biomedical Research Centre which the Department began funding in April 2007.

The Department has also recently agreed to commission a review of studies on the incidence and prevalence of psychosis and schizophrenia.

The information requested on people being treated for psychosis arising from cannabis use is not available centrally.

The Department is concerned about the negative impact of cannabis use and intoxication on acute mental health patients and on mental health services.

The Department advises that cannabis use is harmful for people with existing mental health problems, being linked with relapse and resistance to treatments.

Chronically Sick: Neurology

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will review the 2005 National Service Framework for Long-Term Neurological Conditions; [208225]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the 2005 National Service Framework for Long-Term Neurological Conditions against its target of complying with the 2004 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical guideline for epilepsy. [208226]

Ann Keen: We have no current plans to review the National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term Neurological Conditions. Copies of the NSF are available in the Library.

The NSF for Long-term Conditions has no target for compliance with the guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the diagnosis and management of epilepsy in adults and children.

NICE guidance consists of recommendations for health professionals on diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy. Health professionals are free to use their clinical judgment, in consultation with the wishes of the patient, to decide, on an individual basis, the most appropriate treatment options.

Epilepsy

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the 2003 Action Plan for Epilepsy. [208224]

Ann Keen: There are no current plans to review the "Improving Services for People with Epilepsy: Department of Health Action Plan in response to the National Clinical Audit of Epilepsy Related Death". Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Mental Health

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many doctors were diagnosed with mental health problems in each year since 1997; [208064]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with mental health conditions in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [208068]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so reliable data is not available about the number of people, regardless of profession, who have been diagnosed with mental ill health.

One sixth of the population suffers from a common mental health problem every day and one in 100 people suffers from a serious mental illness such as psychosis.

Mental Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of computerised cognitive behavioural therapy; [206389]

(2) how many patients received computerised cognitive behavioural therapy treatment delivered in each of the last three years. [206390]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The effectiveness of computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (cCBT) has been assessed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), which issued a technology appraisal in February 2006, indicating that this therapy can be effective in treating mild and moderate depression and the anxiety disorders of phobia and panic.

NICE also published its guidance "Computerised cognitive behaviour therapy for depression and anxiety" in February 2004. NICE will be consulting on review plans for this guidance in September 2008.

Data on the amount of patients who have received cCBT treatment delivered via computer in each of the last three years is not held centrally.

Whether a patient has received cCBT treatment would be recorded in individual patients'notes and by the various national health service, private and voluntary sector organisations providing such services.

Mental Health Services: Community Care

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the Answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1018W, on the mentally ill: community care, what assessment his Department has made of the availability of mental health advocacy for people subject to community treatment orders within strategic health authorities; [208236]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the likely provision of independent mental health advocacy for patients discharged from hospital and subject to community treatment orders up to April 2009. [208237]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department carries out mapping of mental health service provision across England, including advocacy services annually. The latest available details of advocacy provision in each strategic health authority (SHA) area are set out in the following table. This is general provision and will be available to people subject to community treatment orders and others:

Mental health services: number of adult advocacy services in England by SHAs at 31 March 2007

SHA name	*Number of services*
England total	230
East Midlands SHA	14
East of England SHA	23
London SHA	44
North East SHA	14
North West SHA	47
South Central SHA	20
South East Coast SHA	9
South West SHA	18
West Midlands SHA	21
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	20

Source:
Service Mapping exercise

Mental Health Services: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on mental health services in Islington in each year since 1997-98; and how many mental health patients from Islington were cared for *(a)* as in-patients and *(b)* through care in the community in each of those years. [207686]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested. Information is available about expenditure on secondary mental health services, where patients have been referred to specialist mental health services, but information about expenditure on primary mental health services, such as treatment by general practitioners, is not held.

Figures for expenditure on the commissioning of secondary mental health services in Islington for each year from 2000-01 to 2006-07 are set out in the following table. From 2000 to 2002, Camden and Islington health authority commissioned secondary mental health services for Islington. Since 2002, services have been commissioned by Islington primary care trust (PCT).

Expenditure on the commissioning of secondary mental health services in Islington

Commissioning organisation	*Financial year*	*Expenditure (£000)*
Camden and Islington Health Authority	2000-01	77,866
	2001-02	92,952
Islington PCT	2002-03	51,429
	2003-04	53,522
	2004-05	57,478
	2005-06	66,493
	2006-07	77,725

Source:
Audited Camden and Islington Health Authority summarisation forms 2000-01 and 2001-02; audited Islington PCT summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Regarding the number of mental health patients from Islington cared for as in-patients, the following table shows the number of hospital admissions for mental health consultant specialities where the patient's PCT of residence is Islington for each year since 1997-98.

Number of hospital admissions for mental health consultant specialities where the patient's PCT of residence is Islington

	Count of hospital admissions for mental health consultant specialities[1] *for patients whose PCT of residence was Islington.*
1997-98	1,214
1998-99	1,164
1999-2000	1,130
2000-01	926
2001-02	874
2002-03	823
2003-04	788
2004-05	836
2005-06	843
2006-07	1,041

[1] Care is needed when analysing HES codes by speciality, or by groups of specialities, as trusts have different ways of managing specialities and attributing codes. The speciality classifications used to compile these data are:
mental illness;
child and adolescent psychiatry;
forensic psychiatry;
psychotherapy; and
old age psychiatry.

Notes:
1. *Ungrossed Data*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
2. *Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the national health service there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
3. *Data Quality*
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. *Finished admission episodes (FAEs)*
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Regarding the number of mental health patients from Islington cared for through care in the community, the following table shows the number of patients served by early intervention (EI) teams and assertive outreach (AO) teams and the number of treatment episodes delivered by crisis resolution (CR) teams for each year since 2001-02. It also shows the local community mental health team's total caseload at the end of each financial year for 2002-03 and 2006-07 (this data collection was discontinued between 2003-04 and 2005-06). EI, AO and CR teams were introduced as part of the strategy set out in the "National Service Framework for Mental Health" (the NSF), published in 1999, to deliver mental health services in the community. Copies of the NSF are available in the Library.

Number of patients in Islington served by EI and AO teams, number of treatment episodes delivered by CR teams and local community mental health team's total caseload

	Islington PCT			Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust[1]
	Number of people served by an EI team	Number of treatment episodes delivered by a CR team[2]	Number of people served by an AO team	Total caseload of the community mental health team at 31 March
2001-02	[3]—	[3]—	[4]52	[3]—
2002-03	0	188	276	2,184
2003-04	12	1,005	79	[3]—
2004-05	50	1,098	110	[3]—
2005-06	109	1,487	128	[3]—
2006-07	139	818	140	2,917

[1] Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust became Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust on 1 March 2008.

[2] The CR guidance was revised in 2005-06. The CR activity data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 show the number of home treatment episodes—patients who have more than one home treatment episode are counted more than once. Prior to that, the CR team data show the total number of people treated by the CR team.

[3] Denotes data not available.

[4] In 2001-02, data were collected on the number of people served by AO teams from Camden and Islington health authority, rather than Islington PCT.

Note:

The target dates for full establishment of these mental health teams was December 2003 for AO teams and December 2004 for EI and CR teams.

Sources:

Local planning delivery returns and mental health service mapping.

Mental Health: Advocacy

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health advocates he estimates there will be in each of the next three years; and what the estimated cost of employing them will be in each of those years. [207644]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The provisions for independent mental health advocacy are expected to be introduced in April 2009. The Department has not estimated how many mental health advocates there will be in each of the next three years. It will be for local commissioners to determine the numbers of advocates required to fulfil their obligations under the Mental Health Act.

Consequently, the Department equally cannot estimate costs of employing these advocates. We are committed to providing additional funding for these services to local commissioners but, as priorities for additional funding from 2009-10 have not yet been finalised, we cannot yet confirm the exact amounts.

Mentally Ill: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of prescriptions for anti-psychotic drugs to people under 16 years was in each of the last five years, broken down by health trust. [205369]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Prescription Price Division of the NHS Business Services Authority captures information about prescription of specific drugs to under 16s for only a sample of total prescriptions. A table showing the approximate cost of prescriptions for anti-psychotic drugs to people under 16 years in the last five calendar years broken down by primary care trust, based on this sample data, has been placed in the Library.

Methadone

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of prescribing methadone to prisoners in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and whether heroin has been prescribed to prisoners during that period. [205517]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested.

Since April 2007, HM Prison Service has collected information on regular opioid prescriptions to prisoners. From April to December 2007, 9,242 maintenance prescriptions, for methadone and buprenorphine, were initiated.

Heroin is not prescribed to prisoners in England and Wales.

Nurses: Maternity Services

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he issues on the number of nurses per child designated to care for *(a)* sick and *(b)* premature babies in intensive care; and if he will make a statement. [208276]

Ann Keen: The Department's policy for neonatal services is set out in the "Report of the Neonatal Intensive Care Services Review Group", April 2003, copies of which have been placed in the Library. The report considered nurse staffing ratios, concluding that staffing on a day-to-day basis should reflect infant and family dependency rather than simply cot numbers.

The Department does not mandate standards for nursing care but has shared standards recommended by the British Association of Perinatal Medicine as part of its 2003 review of neonatal services.

The nurse to baby ratio is not a straightforward issue, with the level of criticality ill babies varying from day to day. Therefore, decisions regarding safe occupancy and nursing ratios are matters for local networks and units.

Palliative Care

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to allocate to primary care trusts for *(a)* palliative care, *(b)* disabled services and *(c)* hospice funding under the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008-09; what guidance (i) he has issued and (ii) plans to issue on the allocation of such funding; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [205003]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Funding has been included in primary care trust (PCT) allocations for 2008-09 for palliative care and disabled children in support of the objectives set out in "The NHS in England: The Operating Framework for 2008-09". PCT allocations are not broken down into funding for individual areas, and it is for the national health service locally to decide how best to deliver the objectives in the light of the local needs and circumstances, including how much resource to invest. In addition to PCT allocations, there is a £9 million central grant in 2008-09 for children's hospices and hospice at home services.

Future guidance that is due includes the End of Life Strategy and the Child Health Strategy, which will inform future operating frameworks, and consequently the funding the NHS will need to invest in support of their delivery. The Department has also announced that the grant for children's hospices and hospice at home services will be extended for a further two years, by £20 million in total.

My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister and myself recently met a number of hon. Members to discuss the hospice funding issues. Work to develop the End of Life Care Strategy for adults, which is due to be published in the summer, has considered, among other things, the role of, and funding for hospices. The Department has also received other correspondence asking about funding for these services.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on palliative and end of life care in each of the last five years; and how many people received such care in each year. [207643]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not collect information centrally on expenditure on palliative/end of life care or the number of patients in receipt of palliative/end of life care. There are no central revenue allocations specifically for end of life care. Primary care trusts (PCTs) remain responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including end of life care. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Pancreatitis

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward plans to *(a)* raise awareness of pancreatitis and *(b)* provide support to pancreatitis patient self-help groups. [208554]

Ann Keen: The Government have already made information available on the causes and treatment of pancreatitis on the NHS choices website, which can be found at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/pancreatitis/Pages/Questionstoaskpg.aspx?url=Pages/Questionstoasktab.aspx

The Department has no current plans to provide support to pancreatitis patient self-help groups.

Suicide

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to assess the effectiveness of the National Suicide Strategy; [208532]

(2) what steps are being taken to develop a Suicide Strategy for England for the period after 2010. [208533]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England is comprehensive, evidence-based and subject to monitoring and evaluation. It is overseen by the Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group which provides leadership and support in ensuring successful implementation and valuable input into the development of various specific actions outlined in the strategy where members have a particular expertise.

An annual report is published setting out progress in implementing the strategy and highlighting further activity that will take place in the following year. The next report, covering the calendar year 2007, is due to be published in summer 2008.

There are no plans to develop a Suicide Prevention Strategy for England beyond 2010. However, we would expect the prevention of suicide to remain a priority area and the infrastructure is in place for co-ordinated suicide prevention measures to continue to be taken in partnership with other stakeholders.

JUSTICE

British Nationality

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in drawing up a Statement of British Values; and if he will make a statement. [209002]

Mr. Wills: We are currently finalising a process to inform the debate on the Statement of Values. This will include a series of events around the country. We expect to make an announcement about the way ahead before the summer recess.

Courts: Victims

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve facilities for the families of victims in court; and what plans he has to increase the provision of *(a)* seating in public galleries in courtrooms and *(b)* rooms in court buildings for the use of the families of victims of crime. [208409]

Maria Eagle: Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) has spent £3.7 million over the last three years improving court accommodation for victims and witnesses. The statutory code of practice for victims of crime places an obligation on the courts to ensure that victims (including families of deceased victims) have, and are directed to, a separate waiting area and a seat in the courtroom away from the defendant's family or friends. In addition, the Government target for all Crown courts and 90 per cent. of magistrates courts to have separate waiting facilities by 2008 has already been met. The witness charter, which is expected to be implemented by HMCS by March 2009, requires courts to arrange seating in the public gallery for families, where layout permits.

Crime: Victim Support Schemes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve the access of young people who are victims of crime to *(a)* counselling and *(b)* other support services. [208407]

Maria Eagle: As part of its £37 million annual grant from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Victim Support provides emotional and practical support for over 1.4 million victims of crime a year, of which about 300,000 a year are under the age of 18. Clinically-accredited counselling is not provided directly by Victim Support, but can be commissioned by Victim Support as part of the support service it provides to victims. The Youth Crime Action Plan to be published in summer 2008 will include proposals to support young victims of crime.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207488]

Bridget Prentice: Year-end-bonus payments are paid to high performing staff to reflect their individual contribution during the previous performance year. In the Ministry of Justice, for both senior civil service (SCS) and grades below SCS, the performance year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Therefore, 2006-07 was the relevant performance year for the payments made during the financial year 2007-8.

(a) Core Ministry of Justice (SCS and grades below SCS)

For the Senior Civil Service end of year performance bonuses are allocated by the Departmental Pay Committee in accordance with guidelines issued by Cabinet Office each year following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations. As the Ministry of Justice was not formed until after the end of the 2006-07 performance year, SCS staff bonuses were determined by the pay committees in their departments prior to the creation of the Ministry.

For grades below the SCS end of year end performance bonuses are paid to staff who have been judged to have consistently exceeded their objectives throughout the performance year under the Ministry's performance management system.

Total amount paid and number of bonuses are shown in the following table

Group	Total paid	Number of bonus payments
Senior Civil Service	866,500	116
Grades below SCS	967,966	2,419
All staff in ex DCA	1,834,466	2,535

The information contained above excludes payments to staff on Home Office terms who transferred from the Home Office to the Ministry of Justice in May 2007 (with the establishment of the Ministry). Details for these staff is included in the answer provided by the Home Office.

(b) HM Prison Service (SCS and grades below the SCS)

For the Senior Civil Service end of year performance bonuses are allocated in accordance with guidelines issued by Cabinet Office each year following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations.

For grades below the SCS end of year end performance bonuses are paid to staff who have consistently exceeded their objectives throughout the performance year.

Total amount paid and number of bonuses are shown in the following table

Group	Total Paid	Number of Bonus Payments
Senior Civil Service	174,988	17
Grades below SCS	1,096,766	4,816
All staff in HMPS	1,271,754	4,833

Elections: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons ballot papers for the London Mayoral elections instructed voters to vote for two candidates and did not mention their right not to cast a second preference. [207523]

Bridget Prentice: The Greater London Authority Elections Rules 2007 specify the form and content of the ballot papers. These were drafted after significant research and development work carried out by the communications officers of the GLA London Elects team, including trials of use of the ballot papers by the public.

For the sake of clarity, instructions to voters on ballot papers are kept to a minimum and a fuller explanation of the use of first and second preference votes was given in guidance materials and factsheets available to all electors.

Hollesley Bay Prison: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of absconders from Hollesley Bay Prison. [207775]

Mr. Hanson: Every effort is made to keep absconds to a minimum. Records show that both the National Offender Management Service in general, and Hollesley Bay individually, are succeeding in these efforts, and that given the high occupancy rate this demonstrates, that protecting the public is the main priority of all prisons, especially open establishments. Absconds in 2007-08 are less than half the level of 10 years ago[1].

The figures for absconds in England and Wales, and for Hollesley Bay, for the last five years are set out in the following table.

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[1] Absconds for 1997-98 were 1,056.

	Absconds England and Wales	*Absconds Hollesley Bay*
2003-04	1,310	36
2004-05	877	32
2005-06	709	16
2006-07	555	21
2007-08	513	19

Judges: Housing

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse of the provision of accommodation and associated services for judges in *(a)* London and *(b)* elsewhere in England and Wales was in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many judges were provided with such accommodation and services in each location; and what the average cost per judge was of such provision, broken down by location of accommodation. [207922]

Mr. Straw: The total cost of providing the network of judges' lodgings in 2006-07, which is the last year for which audited figures are presently available, was £4,947,766.26. The average cost since 1999-2000 has remained at just over £5 million which, when inflationary pressures are taken into account, shows that the economics of lodgings are carefully managed and have delivered a saving since 2000 of 12 per cent. Nevertheless, the cost of lodgings is kept under permanent review.

No lodgings expenses of any kind were funded in London in 2006-07.

The data set out as follows relate to the 32 judges' lodgings in England and Wales. The first table sets out how many judges and clerks were provided with accommodation at the 32 lodgings located across England and Wales and what the average cost per judge week was in each case. The data set out as follows also include 17 lodgings owned by the Department that are not occupied by judges all the time. These permanent lodgings incur a cost throughout the year which will generate an increased cost per High Court judge week; equally, the average cost per week will decline as the lodgings are used more frequently. This is illustrated by the cost per week of Norwich lodgings over the last four years, given in the second table.

Judges lodgings	*Number of judges accommodated*	*Total cost (£)*	*Cosy per judge week (£)*
Birmingham	37	490,972.64	3,517.00
Leicester	3	55,094.65	3,722.61
Lincoln	1	12,946.36	3,236.99
Nottingham	13	227,065.83	4,417.62
Northampton	2	24,915.36	6,228.84
Stafford	6	100,690.94	3,107.75
Warwick	1	4,989.75	3,118.59
Worcester	1	11,070.48	11,070.48
Hull	7	63,439.73	3,079.60
Leeds	22	273,359.01	3,358.22
Plawsworth	16	446,722.76	7,470.28
Sheffield	12	265,727.18	5,853.02
Carlisle	3	33,046.47	3,442.34
Liverpool	16	287,283.31	3,387.77
Manchester	27	302,177.13	2,641.41
Preston	12	240,749.52	5,015.62
Chelmsford	5	78,700.96	3,098.46
Lewes	3	20,224.57	2,247.17
Maidstone	7	149,118.55	6,717.05
Norwich	2	164,932.94	41,233.24
Oxford	4	77,351.97	6,043.12
Reading	4	113,179.03	14,147.38
St. Albans	4	248,181.28	15,319.83
Caernarfon	4	24,727.27	5,375.49
Cardiff	19	283,433.35	4,955.13
Chester	10	215,539.41	5,083.48
Swansea	6	116,920.81	4,752.88
Bristol	11	216,468.14	4,146.90
Exeter	5	59,478.43	3,671.51
Plymouth	3	12,408.27	2,139.36
Truro	2	14,112.21	2,822.44
Winchester	9	312,737.97	4,681.71
Total cost		4,947,766.26	

Norwich judges lodgings data 2004-07

	Total running costs (£)	*Judge weeks used*	*Cost per judge week (£)*
2003-04	141,165.01	20.8	6,786.78
2004-05	158,427.46	29.6	5,352.28
2005-06	166,119.43	43.2	3,845.36
2006-07	164,932.94	4	41,233.24

Judiciary: Allowances

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what allowances for *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* subsistence are payable to members of the judiciary required to stay overnight away from home in connection with their official duties; what rates apply to each category of judge; and if he will make a statement. [207544]

Mr. Straw: Judicial office holders receive the following allowances where required to stay overnight, and away from their home, in connection with their official duties:

(a) Accommodation

Hotels and private clubs in London: Actual expenditure up to a ceiling of £120 for bed and breakfast costs.

Hotels and private clubs elsewhere: Actual expenditure up to a ceiling of £100 for bed and breakfast costs.

Rented accommodation in London: Actual rental expenditure up to a ceiling of £60.

Rented accommodation elsewhere: Actual rental expenditure up to a ceiling of £50.

Second home in London (e.g. town flat): Reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred up to a limit of £32.45.

Second home elsewhere (e.g. country cottage): Reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred up to a limit of £31.

(b) Subsistence

24 hour allowance for overnight stays: £21.

Personal incidental expenditure allowance: £5.

The rates apply to all categories of judge.

Judges lodgings are available to High Court judges in a number of centres.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which 10 barristers received the highest fees for civil legal aid work from the community legal services in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how much was received in each case. [207924]

Maria Eagle: The most recent year for which the information is available is 2006-07. The 10 barristers receiving the highest fees for civil legal aid work in the year ending 31 March 2007 were:

	£
Jeremy G. Rosenblatt	508,000
Paul M. Storey Q.C.	362,000
John P. Godfrey	357,000
Stephen Knafler	350,000
Simon W. Taylor Q.C.	334,000
Robin S. Tolson Q.C.	328,000
Jonathan L. Baker Q.C.	323,000
Simeon A. Maskrey Q.C.	284,000
Eleanor Hamilton Q.C.	281,000
Ian J. C. Peddie Q.C.	272,000

These figures must be interpreted carefully and do not represent the personal earnings of the individuals listed in any one year. There are a number of reasons for this.

> The amounts paid to each barrister listed represent payments for work covering many years, for a variety of cases. The amount an individual receives in any year fluctuates widely, and is to a large extent due to the variety of payment processes and schemes used by the LSC and the courts.
>
> All the figures listed are inclusive of VAT (17.5 per cent.) as paid, and disbursements incurred (e.g. travelling). Individual barristers must pay that VAT to HM Revenue and Customs.
>
> Barristers pay a percentage of their fees towards professional overheads. Additionally, barristers face the same expenses as any other self-employed person, including income tax and national insurance contributions.
>
> These figures represent gross payments made to the barristers during the year. However, some of those monies have been paid (or may in the future be repaid) to the CLS by other parties. This will happen in cases where the legally aided party wins the case and recovers costs from the opponent. Once those costs are recovered the legally aided party's solicitor refunds some or all of the money to the CLS fund. As a consequence the figures may not reflect the actual cost of the barristers' fees to the fund. In some cases where costs are recovered from the losing party, the actual cost to the CLS fund may be very little or even nothing.

This information has also been published on the Department's website at the following location:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/foi-highest-paid-barristers.htm

Legal Services Commission

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what changes have been made to the Legal Services Commission's *(a)* targets for handling (i) correspondence and (ii) complaints and *(b)* quality control checking procedures since its establishment, and on what dates; how these changes were notified to (A) regional directors and (B) account managers; and what procedures are in place to advise the Commission's customers of such changes; [207410]

(2) which categories of Legal Services Commission staff have job descriptions which include an element of customer service; what the paybands of each category are; what customer services are assessed; how staff performance against customer service objectives is measured; and what account is taken of customer service performance in staff remuneration; [207411]

(3) whether an element of the remuneration of *(a)* the Chief Executive, *(b)* members of the executive team, *(c)* regional directors and *(d)* account managers of the Legal Services Commission is linked to (i) the level of complaints made against the Commission and (ii) the Commission's customer service performance. [207412]

Bridget Prentice: It is not possible to answer the questions in the exact format requested as the information is not all held centrally and could not be compiled without disproportionate effort.

The LSC strives to maintain the highest standards of customer service and effective complaint handling. In order to pursue this each year the LSC measures its performance against a national customer service score. In 2006-07 the LSC exceeded this target by achieving 92 per cent. against a target of 88 per cent. In 2006-07 the number of complaints received dropped by 15 per cent., which was a continuing trend compared to previous years.

The LSC will again report on customer service and complaints when it publishes its Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08. LSC annual reports are available at the LSC's website at:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/aboutus/how/strategic_publications.asp

Information on the LSC's remuneration policies and executive team pay is also published in the LSC's annual reports. The latest remuneration report is at pages 48-53 of the LSC's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07.

Legal Services Commission: Complaints

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance the Legal Services Commission gives to those wishing to make complaints about the Commission; and what undertakings it makes to complainants about the handling of their complaints. [207406]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission is committed to providing the best possible service for all its customers. It strives to maintain the highest standards of customer service and effective complaint handling. Information on LSC's procedures and undertakings for handling complaints can be found on the "How to Complain" leaflet and available at their website at:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/docs/cls_main/How_to_Complain_to_the_Legal_Services_Commission_May_07.pdf

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* training and *(b)* guidance is provided to staff of the Legal Services Commission on the Commission's complaints procedure. [207407]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 411-12W to the hon. Member for Knowsley, South (Mr. O'Hara).

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many complaints the Legal Services Commission has received concerning its Chief Executive since 1 April 2007; when each complaint was received; how it was processed; and what the outcome of each complaint was; [207408]

(2) how many complaints concerning the Chief Executive of the Legal Services Commission are outstanding; and how many of these relate to failures to process complaints in accordance with the Commission's procedures. [207409]

Bridget Prentice: There have been no complaints made about the chief executive since April 2007 within the formal complaints procedure. One individual has contacted the chief executive directly with a variety of complaints. The chief executive wrote to the individual in March 2008 with a response to all complaints raised. The individual continued to complain, and accused the chief executive of failing to follow the LSC's complaints procedure. The individual has been advised to meet with the appropriate regional director so that the complaints can be dealt with at the appropriate level.

Life Imprisonment: Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment were convicted for serious offences within two years of their release from prison in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [207892]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not available. The published statistics on reoffending do not include a breakdown at this level of detail. The information requested is not readily available from any single data source and would require data matching and manual checking of records to ensure that it was reliable. Providing this information would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

For more information on the latest reoffending statistics, and on frequency and severity of reoffending, please consult:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/re-offending-adults-2000-05.pdf

Parole

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have had decisions on parole delayed by the cancellation of the Parole Board meeting at which decisions were due because the Board had not received the relevant paperwork in the last five years. [208529]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is set out in the following table and is based on data held by the Parole Board. It includes determinate and indeterminate prisoners whose parole reviews were delayed while the Parole Board sought additional information. It excludes the Parole Board's review of recalled prisoners. It covers the period from April 2004 to March 2008; data on deferrals broken down by reasons for the deferral were not collected prior to 2004-05.

	Number of deferrals
2004-05	299
2005-06	414
2006-07	682
2007-08	540

Powers of Attorney

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent consideration he has given to simplifying the forms for incepting lasting powers of attorney; [207416]

(2) whether steps are being taken to reduce the costs of making lasting powers of attorney; and if he will make a statement; [207417]

(3) what charges apply to setting up lasting powers of attorney. [207446]

Bridget Prentice: Since the commencement of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in October 2007, Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) forms and related guidance have been available free of charge from the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). Registration of an LPA with the Office of the Public Guardian attracts a fee of £150.00. This represents a small increase on the cost of registering an older Enduring Power of Attorney of £125.00. The increase reflects the additional costs to the OPG in processing LPAs. These fees are subject to a system of remissions and exemptions for people on low incomes.

There was wide public consultation when the forms and guidance were designed and the aim was to produce documents that both met the legislative requirements but could also be filled in easily. We were mindful of the fact that many users would be lay people who would have little prior knowledge of LPAs or how they operate. The forms were designed with the needs of this audience in mind and were put through external usability tests that were used to refine the forms further.

The OPG will be reviewing the effectiveness of the Act once it has been in operation for a full year and there has been an opportunity to see how well it is working in practice. As part of this review the OPG will be looking at the design of the LPA forms and guidance to identify whether any improvements might be possible.

The OPG will also be considering the current fee structure around the same period and will be considering whether any changes to the current fees may be necessary.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 14th May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1572W, on prisoners: release, how many prisoners have been released automatically at the halfway point under section 244 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in each of the last five years. [206783]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA03) applies to those prisoners who committed an offence on or after 4 April 2005. The Act states that all offenders who receive a standard determinate sentence are automatically released at the halfway point of their sentence and remain under licence, subject to recall if they breach licence conditions, for the remainder of their sentence. Offenders who receive an indeterminate or extended sentence for a sexual or violent offence, are not automatically released, although an extended sentence prisoner may be released at the halfway point upon the Parole Board's discretion.

The following table provides the information available, extracted from tables 10.1 and 10.2 from the latest annual publication Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006. This gives the number of people released from prison with a sentence from 12 months to four years. The majority of these people are likely to have been sentenced under CJA03 and therefore released at the halfway point. It should be noted that as CJA03 refers only to those offences committed on or after 4 April 2005, the majority of people released from sentences of over three years will have been sentenced under earlier Acts.

Number of prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence—adults

Length of sentence[1]	*Number of persons discharged*[2, 3]
12 months	2,800
Over 12 months and up to and including 18 months	4,600
Over 18 months up to and including 3 years	8,900
Over 3 years and less than 4 years	2,700
4 years	1,400

Number of prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence—young offenders

Length of Sentence[1]	*Number of persons discharged*[2, 3]
12 months	700
Over 12 months and up to and including 18 months	700
Over 18 months up to and including 3 years	1,000
Over 3 years and less than 4 years	300
4 years	100

[1] On discharge: the sentence may change after reception if there are further charges or an appeal.

[2] Excluded discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine and persons reclassified as adult prisoners.

[3] Rounded to the nearest 100 or the nearest 10 for number less than 100.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Children

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research on the number of children who take time off schools to visit a parent in prison. [203073]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Visiting a parent in prison is one of many reasons why pupils are absent from school. Our guidance to schools and local authorities recognises it as one of the reasons why schools might authorise an absence. We also recommend that schools' and local authorities' strategies to manage and minimise absence should aim to address pupils' individual needs in order to prevent unnecessary or avoidable absence and help pupils catch up the work that they miss. Schools and local authorities are working hard to do this and the absence figures that we published for the 2006/07 school year show that this personalised approach is working. We do not see a need for research on this particular issue.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the percentage of prisoners within the high security estate with an identified accommodation need who do not have appropriate support planned for them upon release. [207970]

Mr. Hanson: During the year ending March 2008, 95.8 per cent. of those released from high security estate establishments were released with settled accommodation arranged for them. It should also be noted that the majority of these releases will be offenders subject to MAPPA arrangements. This means that they will have a structured release plan including supervised accommodation arrangements and appropriate support once back in the community.

Prosecutions: Licensing Act 2003

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were under (i) section 141 (a), (ii) section 141 (b), and (iii) section 142 of the Licensing Act 2003 in each year for which figures are available. [189294]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Since the Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005 two defendants were proceeded against at magistrates courts and one found guilty at all courts in 2006, in England and Wales under section 141 (a) and (b). No defendants have been proceeded against or found guilty under section 142 of the Licensing Act.

In addition, under the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme established by the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, the police can issue a £80 fixed penalty to those found selling or attempting to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk (section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003 (c.17) The number of PNDs issued were 32 in 2005 and 47 in 2006.

Sentencing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length was of sentences *(a)* handed down to and *(b)* served by those who were convicted of (i) violence against the person, (ii) sexual offences and (iii) robbery in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [206503]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the available data on average sentence length and time served (including remand), relating to those discharged between 2000 and 2006 from determinate sentences served in prisons in England and Wales, along with the corresponding numbers of discharges.

							Months
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Adult average sentence length[1]							
Violence against the person	18	18	18	18	17	17	16
Sexual offences	41	44	46	46	49	48	46
Robbery	50	50	47	46	48	48	49
Young offender average sentence length[1]							
Violence against the person	12	12	12	13	13	12	11
Sexual offences	23	26	22	25	22	25	23
Robbery	25	23	24	24	25	23	22
Adult average time served including remand							
Violence against the person	10	10	10	10	9	9	9
Sexual offences	26	28	29	29	31	30	29
Robbery	30	30	28	27	28	29	30
Young offender average time served including remand							
Violence against the person	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Sexual offences	14	15	13	15	12	14	14
Robbery	14	12	12	12	12	11	11

							Number
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Adult discharges[2,3]							
Violence against the person	9,800	9,600	10,100	10,200	11,500	12,600	12,200
Sexual offences	2,200	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,000	2,000
Robbery	2,500	2,300	2,700	2,900	3,000	2,900	2,800
Young offender discharges[2,3]							
Violence against the person	2,900	3,100	3,000	2,900	3,000	3,200	2,800
Sexual offences	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Robbery	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,200

[1] On discharge : the sentence may change after reception if there are further charges or an appeal.

[2] Excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine.

[3] Rounded to the nearest 100.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Victim Support Schemes: Social Security Benefits

Helen Jones: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the access of victims of crime and their families to effective advice on benefits; and if she will make a statement. [208410]

The Solicitor-General: None.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Recordings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* VHS, *(b)* DVD, *(c)* electronic digital and *(d)* other format videos the Cabinet Office has produced in the last 12 months. [198075]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office makes use of videos for a variety of purposes including raising awareness, sharing information, engaging key audiences and training both inside and beyond the Cabinet Office. On-line video in particular is now a very cost-effective communication tool and is used on both the Cabinet Office and allied websites and on the Department's intranet. No central record is kept of the number of videos produced.

English Language

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of people in the UK for whom English is not their first language. [202743]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

There are no exact figures for the number of people in the UK for whom English is not their first language. The "Skills for Life Survey" published in 2003 reported that 7-8 per cent. of adults of working age in England (2.2-2.5 million people) spoke a first language which was not English.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 5 June 2008

SCOTLAND

Devolution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the preparation of legislative proposals for a referendum on independence for Scotland. [209493]

David Cairns: There have been no such discussions with the First Minister.

Referendums

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has received representations on the holding of a referendum in Scotland on independence from the United Kingdom. [208778]

David Cairns: I have received no such representations.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what files are held by the her Office on *(a)* the Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Sessions (i) 1979-80, (ii) 1987-88 and (iii) 1989-90, *(b)* the Unborn Children (Protection) Bills of Sessions (A) 1984-85, (B) 1985-86 and (C) 1987-88 and *(c)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill of Session 1989-90; and if she will make a statement; [177571]

(2) when she plans to answer question 177571 tabled by the hon. Member for Southend, West on 7 January 2008, on departmental bill files; what the reason is for the time taken to respond; and if she will make a statement. [209160]

Helen Goodman: I apologise to the hon. Member. This question was overlooked.

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons does not hold any files, policy or otherwise, on individual pieces of legislation.

Safety Belts: Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House what files are held by her Department on the Road Traffic (Seat Belts) Bill of Sessions *(a)* 1978-79, *(b)* 1979-80 and *(c)* 1980-81; and if she will make a statement. [209159]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons does not hold any files, policy or otherwise, on individual pieces of legislation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Domestic Violence: Pregnant Women

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pregnant women in Northern Ireland were physically assaulted by a current or former partner resulting in the death of the unborn child in each of the last 10 years. [207761]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

It is not possible to answer this question, as the information requested is not available in the requested format.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208147]

Mr. Woodward: Where we provide catering services, my Department strives to ensure that purchases match demand and that where possible only peelings and cuttings are disposed of. Figures on the amount of material are not available. Food waste is a key priority for the Government: by reducing food waste we should stand to make significant environmental and economic gains.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Secondment

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many serving members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland were seconded to police forces in Great Britain in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* length of secondment and *(b)* rank of officer. [207745]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following information.

	Length of secondment			*Rank*			
Secondment commenced	*Year*	*Month*	*Day*	*Superintendent*	*Chief Inspector*	*Inspector*	*Constable*
1998	3	8	2	1	—	—	—
2000	0	3	0	—	—	1	—
2001	0	2	4	—	—	1	—
	0	2	5	—	—	1	—

Secondment commenced	Length of secondment: Year	Month	Day	Rank: Superintendent	Chief Inspector	Inspector	Constable
	0	2	7	—	—	1	—
	0	2	8	1	—	—	—
	0	2	30	—	—	1	—
	0	2	9	—	—	—	1
	0	4	7	—	—	1	—
2005	0	5	3	—	1	—	—
2006	0	1	24	1	—	—	—
2007	0	6	29	—	—	—	1
Total				3	1	6	2

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205035]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's premises at 11 Millbank are smoke-free. The Northern Ireland Office has not constructed any smoking shelters.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 11-16WS, on planning reform, when she plans to publish a national policy statement on aviation. [206448]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's policy for national policy statements was set out in the written ministerial statement referred to in the question. Further decisions will be made following passage of the Planning Bill through Parliament.

Aviation: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1430W, on Aviation: Costs, if she will break down the figures for each year by *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international flights. [205158]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The following table shows the average UK one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic and international flights.

Average UK one-way air fares, 1997 prices

	All	International	Domestic
1997	203	215	143
1998	192	201	145
1999	163	167	143
2000	158	161	141
2001	143	144	135
2002	129	131	117
2003	112	112	112
2004	107	107	105
2005	101	101	104
2006	103	104	102

Notes:
1. Approximately three quarters of "international" fares are for short haul flights.
2. About half of domestic passengers are travelling for business purposes.
3. "Fare" includes all taxes and charges.
4. Covers domestic and international scheduled flights, but excludes transfer and charter passengers.
5. Domestic component based on a sample of routes where sufficient data available.

Source:
DfT analysis of CAA and IPS data.

Light Dues: Northern Ireland

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken on the payment of light dues by the County Down fishing fleet; and whether it has sought the assistance of the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority in such matters. [208333]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are sympathetic to the concerns of the Northern Ireland fishing industry about the financial state of their industry and their need to reduce costs where they can.

Light dues are a charge levied on commercial shipping to fund the activities of the general lighthouse authorities and the provision of aids to navigation. We continue to believe that such aids should be paid for by those that use them and not the general taxpayer. We therefore have no plans to abolish light dues levied on the fishing industry and have not sought advice from the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority on this matter.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of vehicles registered at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to pay road tax was registered before 2001. [208355]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of vehicles, to the nearest 1,000, that were licensed at the end of 2007 and not exempt from vehicle excise duty was 31,914,000. Of those, 13,093,000 vehicles, 41 per cent, were first registered prior to 2001.

Official Cars

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ensure that Ministers are able to choose a British-built vehicle as their ministerial car. [202926]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W, given to the hon. Member for Houghton and Washington, East (Mr. Kemp).

Railways: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the £15 billion Government funding for rail announced in July 2007 has been allocated. [207576]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" (Cmd 7176) published in July 2007 set out the public funds available to secure delivery of the railway in England and Wales, as specified in the White Paper, during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2014.

How these funds are specifically allocated to programmes will be determined as a consequence of the Office of Rail Regulation's Access Charges Review which is planned to conclude later this year.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether additional funding has been allocated to rail transport since the 2007 Rail White Paper. [207577]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" (Cmd 7176) published in July 2007 set out the public funds available to secure delivery of the railway in England and Wales, as specified in the White Paper, during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2014.

The Department for Transport budget settlement in the comprehensive spending review was consistent with the statement of funds set out in the White Paper. Planned funding for the railway in England and Wales remains as set out in the White Paper.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", Cm 7176, how much of the £15 billion in overall Government support for the railway between 2009 and 2014 has been allocated, broken down by scheme; and how much is yet to be allocated. [208264]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* The White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway' (Cmd 7176) published in July 2007 set out the public funds available to secure delivery of the railway in England and Wales, as specified in the White Paper, during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2014.

How these funds are specifically allocated to programmes will be determined as a consequence of the Office of Rail Regulation's access charges review, which is planned to conclude later this year.

Sea Rescue: Manpower

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many coastguards there are in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England. [208339]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following number of Coastguards are:

(a) 31 in Cornwall.

(b) 90 in the South West.

(c) 276 in England.

Sea Rescue: Pay

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what pay scale is used for coastguards. [208340]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following pay scale is used for the following grades of coastguard staff:

Pay Band A (Coastguard Watch Assistants) £12, 509 - £14, 384

Pay Band B (Watch Officers) £14, 742 - £18, 717

Pay Band C (Watch and Sector Managers) £19, 746 - £25, 072

Pay Band B and D1 (Rescue Co-ordination Managers): £23, 847 - £30,277

In addition to these salaries, a 25 per cent. Coastguard allowance is paid to coastguard watch assistants, watch officers and watch managers, a 15 per cent. coastguard allowance is paid to sector managers, and RCC managers receive £2,455 on-call allowance.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Public Health

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1889W, on the Olympic Games 2012, what provision will be made to reduce any potential spread of sexually transmitted infections. [208150]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The national health service in London is currently working with both the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Delivery Authority to assess the sexual health needs up to, during and after the games. Lessons learned from previous games in host cities such as Sydney and Athens are also being considered as part of the planning process.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the terms of reference of the review of the Portable Antiquities Scheme are. [208198]

Margaret Hodge: The review has been commissioned by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, which will be partnered by the British Museum and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in its management and delivery.

The review will consider the efficiency and effectiveness of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It will consider in particular the following areas:

(i) the objectives of the scheme in the light of changes in regional museum provision, most particularly the Renaissance programme;

(ii) options for levels of activity and funding;

(iii) how the scheme can be delivered in the future in the most cost-efficient manner; and

(iv) how the scheme can be funded and managed in the future in a sustainable way.

Archaeology: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding allocation he has made for the Portable Antiquities Scheme in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [208215]

Margaret Hodge: Decisions on levels of funding for the Portable Antiquities Scheme for these years will follow the outcome of the review that has been commissioned by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

Archaeology: Vacancies

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Portable Antiquities Scheme posts are vacant; and what plans there are to fill them. [208216]

Margaret Hodge: The following Portable Antiquities Scheme posts are vacant.

Berkshire and Oxfordshire: this post has not been advertised yet.

Kent: interviews have been arranged.

Norfolk: interviews have been arranged.

Northamptonshire: this post will become vacant in September.

Warwickshire and Worcestershire: post-holder is on maternity leave.

Yorkshire (north and east): second post has been deleted.

Finds Adviser (Medieval Objects): post-holder is on maternity leave.

Bingo

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed bingo clubs *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year since 2003. [208195]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table indicates the number of bingo halls licensed and operating in each year since 2003. No other statistics are held centrally.

	Total licensed	*Total operational*
2003	724	699
2004	727	696
2005	700	678
2006	679	657
2007	647	634

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff in his Department are responsible for each of its Public Service Agreement targets. [208262]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* The number of people in my Department responsible for each public service agreement target is shown in note 7, on page 62 of the 2006-07 Resource Accounts, which can be found at the following website address:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/dcmsresourceaccounts_200607.pdf

or in the House Library. A similar note will appear in the 2007-08 Resource Accounts, which is expected to be laid before Parliament on 14 July 2008.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199201]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Internal transactional correspondence within the DCMS is almost exclusively undertaken electronically. No departmental studies exist on this issue, as the current working method has been in place for many years.

As a point of customer service, departmental policy on correspondence with external sources is to respond to inquiries in the manner in which the original request was received, unless a more effective and helpful method is available.

Electronic versions of all DCMS publications are placed on the departmental website, and links to such publications are routinely placed throughout the DCMS website. Our publications policy is to adopt electronic rather than hard copy publication wherever possible, taking into account the needs of the target audience groups.

Gaming Machines: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* B2 machines or their equivalent and *(b)* B3 machines or their equivalent there were in licensed betting offices in each year since 1996. [208357]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 1996, licensed betting offices could offer two "amusements with prizes" all-cash (AWP) gaming machines (now classified as category C machines under the Gambling Act). The AWP gaming machines were contingent on the betting office licence issued by the local licensing justices. No central records were kept on the number of AWPs in betting offices, but the Budd Report (2001) stated that according to the estimate of the British Amusement Catering Trade Association, there are about 14,500 all-cash machines in betting offices.

From 2003, and prior to the Gambling Act coming fully into force in September 2007, licensed betting offices could make available up to four fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs) with a maximum prize of £500. No central records were kept on the number of FOBTs made available in betting offices but the Gambling Commission's 2006-07 annual report included an estimate by BACTA that there were 24,500 fixed odds betting terminals as at March 31 of that year.

From September 2007, FOBTs were reclassified as category B2 gaming machines. Betting offices can offer B3 gaming machines as part of their entitlement to a maximum of four category B gaming machines. The Gambling Commission is currently collating information about the numbers of gaming machines in betting offices and this figure will be available in due course.

Royal Opera House

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of those attending performances at the Royal Opera House who are from socio-economic groups *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C1, *(d)* C2, *(e)* D and *(f)* E in each year since 1997. [201679]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has made no estimate of the figures requested.

Arts Council England has informed me that the Royal Opera House collects data on its audiences based on ticket buyers but does not hold audience data of this kind.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the £755 million indicated in his Department's corporate plan as spending on sport over the next three years will be contributed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* other Government Departments, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* National Lottery sources; which other Government Departments are expected to contribute; and how much of the £755 million has been allocated to spending areas. [208321]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The £755 million indicated in the Department's corporate plan refers to the budget for the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) and is Exchequer funding. The DCMS contribution to the PESSYP strategy 2008-11 includes £31.5 million for our Extending Activity work strand, and £5 million for coaching.

In addition to this, since the publication of the Department's corporate plan the DCMS has provided additional funding of £13.45 million for club and dance links, £12 million for leadership and volunteering, and a £3 million increase to the initial coaching programme.

This makes a total DCMS contribution of £64.95 million out of the overall strategy budget of over £783 million, with DCSF providing the balance.

All these moneys have been committed via the Department's delivery bodies. Our ambition is for local authorities to work with our delivery partners to realise the wider benefits that PESSYP can bring.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many competition managers have been appointed. [208219]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Youth Sport Trust has advised that 189 competition managers have been appointed.

Video Games

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the public consultation on video game age ratings classification will be launched; and what the consultation period will be. [208322]

Margaret Hodge: We will publish an action plan later this month covering all the Byron recommendations and the timetable for implementation.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the public consultation on video game age ratings classification will include examination of the merits of the *(a)* British Board of Film Classification system, *(b)* Pan European Games Information system and *(c)* hybrid system recommended in the Byron Review. [208323]

Margaret Hodge: Details of the consultations are not yet finalised. The purpose of the consultation exercise is to take forward the recommendations in the Byron Review, not to repeat the analysis that Dr. Byron conducted for her report.

WALES

Revenue and Customs: Reorganisation

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last met Welsh Assembly Government Ministers to discuss the reorganisation of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Wales. [208692]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I meet Welsh Assembly Ministers regularly to discuss a range of issues including HM Revenue and Customs. We continue to take a keen interest in the HMRC reorganisation and its impact in Wales. We have also spoken to and corresponded with Treasury Ministers on the issue.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the keels for each of the new aircraft carriers will be laid. [208656]

Des Browne: The build strategy for the new aircraft carriers is not analogous to the traditional method of laying a keel as the ships will be constructed in four main sections in different shipyards around the UK. The dates for start of construction of ship sections in the main shipyards, however, are planned to be early 2009 for HMS Queen Elizabeth and early 2010 for HMS Prince of Wales.

Armed Forces: Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 567W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how his Department promotes the use of fair trade products in British military establishments and bases. [209026]

Derek Twigg: The MOD is committed to supporting ethical trading, wherever possible, subject to the need to obtain best value for money. There are a wide variety of contracts in place across the Department which differ in their requirements, specifications, degrees of management information and suppliers. It is recognised that there is a need for a cohesive approach to the procurement of catering services to promote the achievement of sustainable procurement objectives and the universal implementation of best practice. A working group consisting of catering, sustainable development and commercial specialists from all areas of the MOD was formed in January 2008 and is currently looking at strategy options for change and improvement in collaboration with OGCbuying.solutions.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 567W, on the Fairtrade initiative, (1) what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements; [209024]

(2) what the value was of Fairtrade produce purchased at his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of total revenue this represented. [209025]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the book cost of the long service advance of pay scheme was in each year since its inception. [208887]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 674W.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many clinicians *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the Defence Medical Services in each year since 1997, broken down by service. [201018]

Derek Twigg: The term "clinician" is interpreted to mean a medical doctor or dentist.

Figures from 1997-98 to 2003-04 have been sourced from the former Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA).

Figures for 2005-07 have been sourced from the Defence Medical Services Department and cannot be broken down by service.

Doctor/dentist inflow and outflow

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All services										
Intake from civil life	50	90	110	110	70	150	130	90	110	120
Total outflow	90	80	80	60	50	60	60	80	50	80
Naval service[1]										
Intake from civil life	20	20	30	30	20	30	30	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total outflow	20	20	20	20	10	20	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Army[2]										
Intake from civil life	20	70	60	60	40	100	70	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total outflow	40	40	30	30	20	30	40	n/a	n/a	n/a
Royal Air Force										
Intake from civil life	20	10	20	20	20	20	20	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total outflow	30	20	20	20	20	10	10	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available

[1] Naval outflow includes transfers from a medical specialism to dentistry (two in 1996-97, one in 1997-98 and one in 1999-2000). Naval intake for 2000-01 includes four re-entrants and one transfer from Army.

[2] It has not been possible to identify, from the data received by DASA, the exact intake dates of Army doctors and dentists. All Army intake figures provided here are the outflow plus the increase in strength.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timetable is for the submission of a planning application to replace the gravel gerties at Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield. [208327]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The planning application for the assembly/disassembly facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield, which will replace the gravel gerties, is currently programmed for submission to West Berkshire council in the last quarter of 2008.

Bombs

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's position on the banning of cluster bombs is; and if he will make a statement. [208648]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The adopted Convention prohibiting the use of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians is a major breakthrough in that it brings considerable humanitarian benefits and makes the world a better and safer place.

In line with the Prime Minister's statement of 28 May 2008 and the Convention text adopted by 109 states in Dublin on 30 May 2008, the UK is withdrawing from service its sub-munitions, namely the L20A1 Extended Range Bomblet Shell (M85) and the CRV-7 Multi-Purpose Sub-Munition (M73). The UK armed forces will no longer use them operationally.

The Convention does not alter our ability to work with coalition partners on operations involving states that are not signatories to the agreement. The adopted text also does not prevent the US from continuing to stockpile cluster munitions on its bases on UK territory (including Diego Garcia). However, in keeping with our commitment to uphold the norms of the treaty, we will be discussing with the US the longer-term status of its stockpiles on UK territory.

The Convention prohibition on cluster munitions does not cover new weapons which do not carry the same risk to civilians because of their larger size, low numbers and the fact that they have sensor targeting and two fail-safe systems. A case in point is the 155mm ballistic sensor fused munition (BSFM), an anti-armour system artillery round. The BSFM is due to enter service in the UK armed forces in 2012 and replace the anti-armour capability of the L20A1-M85.

Departmental Property

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what premises are occupied by units of the armed forces which are not owned by his Department. [208888]

Derek Twigg: A breakdown of MOD land identified as freehold, leased or where we hold legal rights, is available at

www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/ukdi/2007/c6/table603.html

It is not possible to provide a more detailed breakdown, or to identify which areas are occupied without disproportionate cost.

We keep our estate under continuous review to ensure that it is no larger than is required for defence purposes, and would normally only use non-MOD land where there is no alternative.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement at the UN Conference on Disarmament on 5 February 2008 that the UK is willing to host a technical conference of P5 nuclear laboratories on the verification of nuclear disarmament before the next Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010, what *(a)* date has been set and *(b)* practical arrangements have been made for the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [208850]

Des Browne: In my offer to host a P5 conference between the laboratories of the nuclear weapon states, I proposed that it should take place within the current NPT review cycle ending in 2010. My intention remains that this should be a P5 conference hosted by the UK rather than a UK conference to which the P5 partners are invited. We are actively engaging with our P5 partners to ensure that this conference will also meet their requirements in terms of timing and content. I will keep the House informed of progress.

Peacekeeping Operations: International Security Assistance Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on sourcing the requirements for ISAF's Operational Reserve Force. [208161]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) is responsible for filling the specific requirements of NATO operations. However, we lobby regularly, most recently at the Bucharest summit, for allies to commit more troops to Afghanistan. We also continue to press for reform within NATO to allow the organisation to deal better with the requirements of current operations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances and under what authority local authorities may *(a)* withdraw and *(b)* place conditions on permitted development rights for mobile phone masts permitted under a general permitted development order; and if she will make a statement. [208077]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities can make a direction seeking the withdrawal of permitted development rights under article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (the GPDO) where they are satisfied that it is expedient that development should not be carried out unless permission is granted for it on application.

A direction made in respect of electronic communications code operators' apparatus will require the approval of the Secretary of State, who may approve the direction with or without modifications under article 5 of the GPDO. Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications sets out the policy on removing permitted development rights granted under part 24.

The permitted development rights contained in part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 grant planning permission for a range of electronic communications developments subject to a number of conditions and limitations. The conditions limiting the use of these rights are set out within the order, including the need to apply to the local planning authority for a determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required to the siting and appearance of the development, in certain cases.

In the Government's view, there is an implicit power to attach conditions to the approval of the details of the siting and appearance of the proposed development. The use of such conditions should not be attached as a matter of course, should be confined to matters relating to siting and appearance, and should only be used in exceptional circumstances.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times Ministers in her Department have visited *(a)* commercial leisure organisations, *(b)* licensed bingo clubs and *(c)* dance schools in each year since 2003. [208193]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of her Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if she will make a statement. [208388]

Mr. Dhanda: The numbers and proportions of staff in the various demographic groups are as listed in the following table. These figures are correct as at 30 April 2008 and exclude staff in our executive agencies and Communities staff working in the Government office network. Ethnicity, disability and sexuality are reported on a voluntary basis and are known for around 73 per cent. of staff. For these factors the given proportions are based on these known populations.

		Number of employees	*[1]Proportion of known population (percentage)*
(a)	Male	1,170	51
(b)	Female	1,144	49
(c)	From an ethnic minority	354	21
(d)	Disabled	103	6
(e)	Not heterosexual	97	6

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392W, on departmental overseas visits, what the *(a)* country of destination and *(b)* purpose was of each visit, excluding those to Brussels and Strasbourg. [202957]

Mr. Dhanda: The country of destination for each of the overseas visits is as follows.

Destination	*Number of trips*
European	
Austria	4
Belgium	1
Belgium (rail)	177
Croatia	1
Cyprus	1
Denmark	11
France	10
Germany	48
Ireland	12
Italy	2
Luxembourg	6
Netherlands	17
Norway	1
Portugal	23
Romania	12
Slovenia	1
Spain	24
Sweden	3
Switzerland	5
Turkey	3
Total	362
Intercontinental	
Bangladesh	2
Japan	1
Kenya	1
New Zealand	4
Pakistan	2
Uganda	3
United Arab Emirates	1
United States of America	12

The purpose of these visits was to represent the Department and to provide expert advice on policy/subject issues.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392W, on departmental overseas visits, what the cost of the overseas visits was. [203024]

Mr. Dhanda: The travel cost of the 388 overseas visits was as follows:

362 European visits total—£79,267

26 rest of the world visits total—£72,633

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of employees in her Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if she will make a statement. [208384]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table gives the numbers receiving annual performance-related bonuses in the various demographic groups. These figures refer to the performance year 2006-07, which is the last year for which figures are available. They exclude staff in our executive agencies and Communities staff working in the Government office network. Ethnicity, disability and sexuality are reported on a voluntary basis and are known for around 60 per cent. of staff who received a bonus. For these factors the given proportions are based on these known populations.

		Number receiving a bonus	*Proportion of bonus recipients (percentage)*
(a)	Male	270	47
(b)	Female	299	53
(c)	From an ethnic minority	25	10
(d)	Disabled	5	1
(e)	Not heterosexual	24	7

[1] Based on known population

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the research on return path capability among the elderly and *(b)* the draft return path costed option annex referred to in the minutes of the Emerging Technologies Group meeting on 27 February in relation to the digital switchover assistance scheme. [206973]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not commissioned specific research on the usage of services by the elderly that are provided through a set top box with a return path. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 265W.

The Department has explored with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport the opportunities of providing return path functionality for recipients of the digital switchover 'Help Scheme', and the meeting of the Emerging Technologies Group formed part of the discussion on this issue. The minutes of that meeting refer to a draft costed option annex which the Department agreed to provide to the group following the meeting to illustrate what could be asked of industry. A copy of the costed option annex will be placed in the Library. Two paragraphs have been redacted to avoid the risk that the document gives the misleading impression that this is a real invitation to industry to tender for this work.

Empty Property: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in London are empty. [208828]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are 87,159 empty properties across London, of which 69,485 are privately owned. Of these privately owned empty properties, 27,437 have been empty for longer than six months. It is important to draw a distinction between properties that have been left empty for less than six months and those that are vacant for longer, as properties empty for less than six months are most likely to be transactional vacancies which are a natural function of any housing market.

We recognise the problems caused by the high number of long-term empty properties and continue to encourage local authorities to put measures in place to reduce this number, supported by the legislation that we introduced in the Housing Act 2004 which has given councils the powers to apply to make an Empty Dwelling Management Order in respect of properties that have been vacant for over six months. When an Empty Dwelling Management Order has been made, a council takes over management responsibility for that property, which includes ensuring that it becomes occupied.

Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what is the estimated difference, in cash terms, between the build cost of a family home meeting level 6 on the Code for Sustainable Homes and that of one meeting the minimum requirement under building regulations. [207555]

Mr. Iain Wright: The cost analysis carried out on the Code for Sustainable Homes by Cyril Sweett in November 2007 examined a variety of different housing and development types. Information from this analysis formed part of a full cost-benefit analysis on implementing mandatory ratings against the code that was included in the impact assessment of the Housing and Regeneration Bill. The analysis contains estimated additional build costs for 2008 and for 2016 to take into account of factors such as improvements within industrial processes and technological developments. I have placed a copy of this analysis in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances a local authority *(a)* could and *(b)* should award an additional pension under the new Local Government Pension Scheme provisions. [207534]

John Healey: An additional pension is awarded automatically to eligible members of the Local Government Pension Scheme on grounds of ill health. The actual amount is dependent on an eligible member's capacity to undertake future employment. In other instances, a pension can be enhanced either by the awarding of an extra period of membership or by payment of a fixed amount up to a maximum of £5,000 per year. The actual amount paid is at the discretion of the employing authority and must be in line with its published policy statement, supported by a business case to demonstrate the reasonableness of the decision.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1798-99W, on Local Government: Pensions, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the increase in the cost of the Local Government Pension Scheme to local authorities between 1996-97 and 2006-07. [207627]

John Healey: Every three years the regulations governing the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales require each local authority pension fund to conduct an actuarial valuation exercise to establish the rate at which employers will need to contribute to their fund to ensure its ongoing solvency.

Over the period identified, the single most important influence on employer contributions has been the increase in scheme membership. In 1997, membership of the LGPS totalled 2.3 million, including active, pensioner and deferred members. By 2007, this had increased to 3.6 million. Other important factors identified as part of each actuarial valuation exercise which will also influence the level of employer contributions to the scheme include assumptions about improving longevity, pay and pay progression, price inflation, the incidence of ill-health early retirements, commutation of pensions, investment returns and prevailing economic circumstances generally.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1798-99W, on Local Government: Pensions, what the estimated *(a)* total cost and *(b)* total cost excluding non-local authority employer costs are for (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [207628]

John Healey: The information requested is not available at present, but data for 2007-08 will be published in a statistical release in the autumn.

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the revenue which would accrue from a 2p business rate supplement on businesses with a rateable value of over £50,000 if such a supplement were levied in each local authority in 2008-09. [207616]

John Healey: Business Rate Supplements will allow authorities to invest in much-needed projects aimed at boosting the economic development of local areas, which otherwise would not be able to go ahead. Business will be consulted in all cases, and will be given a vote on projects where supplements will fund more than a third of the total cost. Authorities may decide to set the supplement lower than the maximum of 2p per £1 of rateable value; offset the Business Rate Supplement against any contributions for Business Improvement Districts; raise the rateable value threshold above £50,000; and/or introduce a taper above the £50,000 threshold. Table 3.4 of "Business rate supplements: A White Paper", published in October 2007, sets out the potential supplement revenue. According to this table the maximum revenue raised in England would be £597.1 million, based on 2007 rateable values, the most recent year for which data are available.

Regional Ministers: Parliamentary Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons regional Ministers do not answer parliamentary questions; and if she will make a statement. [208654]

Mr. Dhanda: Regional Ministers do not have executive powers, and it is for departmental Ministers to answer parliamentary questions on issues pertaining to their Departments' responsibilities. The Government believe, however, that regional Ministers should be accountable to Parliament in fulfilling their roles set out in the Green Paper 'The Governance of Britain' and parliamentary questions on their work in this capacity are answered by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Modernisation Committee of the House is currently conducting an inquiry into how regional accountability could be improved, which may make recommendations on how parliamentary questions on the work of regional Ministers are answered in future. The Committee is finalising its report and Government will respond to its recommendations once it is published.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Audit Commission has made of the reasons for recent trends in levels of benefit fraud. [207522]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated May 2008:

Your Parliamentary Question on what assessment the Audit Commission has made of the reasons for recent trends in levels of benefit fraud has been passed to me for reply.

As you will know, on 20 May 2008 the Commission published its biannual report on the National Fraud Initiative. I am enclosing a further copy for information. The report shows that public bodies are getting better at identifying fraud—the issue for us is to encourage them to display a zero tolerance to fraud, and to prosecute wherever practicable. The Commission has also recently taken over responsibility for the inspection and assessment of housing and council tax benefits. We are developing a comprehensive framework to deal with benefit fraud that recognises the vital contribution that benefit services make to the social and economic wellbeing of local areas, as well as how this fits in with local authority strategies to address poverty, deprivation, homelessness and unemployment.

However, the Commission does not have an overview of benefit fraud, and so cannot make any assessment of general trends, either in relation to take-up or fraud. The Department for Work and Pensions remains responsible for welfare benefits, and any queries about fraud in relation to, for example, disability benefits, would have to be addressed to DWP directly.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Environment Protection

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to safeguard the environmental benefits of set-aside, with reference to the Common Agricultural Policy health check. [207024]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government agree with the European Commission's proposal to abolish set-aside under the 'health check'. We and the Commission both recognise the importance of retaining the key environmental benefits, and we will continue to encourage the introduction of appropriate EU-wide measures. We have also asked Sir Don Curry to continue working with key stakeholders to advise further on domestic policy options.

Agriculture: Young People

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage young people to work in the agricultural sector. [208812]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government recognise the importance of new entrants to farming to ensure a dynamic and innovative industry.

DEFRA supports the industry-led Fresh Start initiative, which aims to encourage and support new entrants into farming. The Fresh Start Academies provide 12 to 18 months of business-focused training, as well as business mentoring and identifying opportunities for new entrants to farming.

DEFRA provides funding to support the activities of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, which works with young people aged 10 to 26 with an interest in rural issues. The clubs offer young people a range of activities and experiences with a rural flavour, including training in agricultural and countryside skills and competitive activities.

DEFRA also supports the Year of Food and Farming, an industry-led campaign, one of the objectives of which is to encourage children to learn about what happens on a farm, what life is like in the countryside and what employment opportunities it offers.

Animal Welfare: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to table 3, page 200 of his Department's Annual Report 2008, Cm 7399, for what reason no departmental expenditure limit expenditure on animal welfare is planned in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [207738]

Jonathan Shaw: The planned Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit expenditure on Animal Welfare for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is now included within Departmental Operations Other Activities line. The planned expenditure is £600,000 for each of the three years.

Bees: Research

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1742-43W, on Beekeeping: Research, what the results of project HH0819SHB on fungal control of Varroa jacobsoni were. [207888]

Jonathan Shaw: The results of the project HH0819SHB on fungal control of Varroa jacobsoni are shown in the Research Project Final Report, which is available on the DEFRA website.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in how many parishes in England and Wales incidences of bovine tuberculosis were confirmed in each year since 1997. [208121]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of parishes in England and Wales where incidences of bovine tuberculosis were confirmed in each year since 1997 can be found in the following table:

	Number of confirmed parishes in England	*Number of confirmed parishes in Wales*
1997	277	33
1998	397	60
1999	461	77
2000	525	87
2001	292	67
2002	820	146
2003	821	163
2004	855	183
2005	948	188
2006	986	222
2007	1,047	215

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is his Department's policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment he has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207918]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 640W.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department met the civil service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204705]

Jonathan Shaw: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the civil service website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp.

The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008.

DEFRA's position as at 31 March 2008 is shown in the following table.

		Percentage
Diversity strand	*31 March 2008*	*Civil service target 31 March 2008*
Women SCS	27.9	37.0
Women top management post is SCS	18.6	30.0
Disabled SCS	2.5	4.0
BME SCS	1.9	3.2

Departmental Land

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2328W, on Tree Preservation Orders: Guildford, what assessment he has made of progress on disposal of the site against the stated timetable; and who the preferred bidder is. [209384]

Joan Ruddock: The exchange of contracts to the new owner, Linden Homes, took place on 18 May 2008. The contracts are due to be completed on 2 July 2008.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Acts for which his Department has policy responsibility received Royal Assent between 1 May 1997 and April 2008; and which provisions within those Acts have not been brought into force. [204894]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA was formed with effect from June 2001. Since that time it has sponsored (or supported, for Acts resulting from Private Members' Bills; these Acts are asterisked) the primary legislation listed in the following table. Regarding which provisions are in force, a single picture with the precise details of whether particular provisions of an Act have commenced (whether for all or some purposes, and whether in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as applicable) is information within the public domain which can be accessed using legislation subscription services, while individual Acts and commencement orders can be accessed severally without subscription on the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) website. In very broad terms, however, the picture is as indicated in the table.

Legislation	*Provisions*
Animal Welfare Act 2006 c.45	For both England and Wales, all in force except section 8(3)-(6), paragraph 3(1) of schedule 3, and certain repeals
Commons Act 2006 c.26	The following provisions are not yet in force: sections 1, 2, 10, 18, 26-28, 30, 32-37, 46. The following provisions are not in force, save in relation to Wales for certain ministerial powers to make delegated legislation and exercise other powers in anticipation of coming into force; sections 3, 6, 7, 8, 11-14, 19-21, 25, 29, 31 and 50, and schedules 2 and 3. Sections 16, 38, 41 and 48, and schedule 4 paragraphs 2-5 and 7, are in force in England, but not Wales. Sections 17, 39, 40, 42-44 are in force in England, but not Wales except for such ministerial powers. Schedules 5 and 6 are mostly not in force.
Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 c. 19	All in force
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 c.16	All in force except schedule 11 paragraph 74
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 c.16	Section 1 has been repealed, remainder is in force except the following provisions: sections 37, 46 (but in force in Wales), 49 (5), (7), (8) (but in force for the purposes of enabling guidance to be given by the Secretary of State), schedule 4 para 3(5) and para 3(6) (but in force for the purposes of amendments to s52 (1) and (3)). Schedule 5 part 4 (not in force for the purpose of repeal of Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1986, s6) and part 9 (not in force in Wales)
Hunting Act 2004 c.37	All in force
Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 c.1 1	All in force
Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 c.29*	All in force
Ragwort Control Act 2003 c.40*	All in force

Legislation	*Provisions*
Water Act 2003 c.37	The following provisions are not yet in force: sections 5, 7, 8(2), 32, 58(2)-(4), (5) and (8) (not in force in England with the exception of insertions into the Water Industry Act 1991 for the purpose of enabling the Secretary of State to make regulations), (6), (7) and (9)-(14). Section 73, section 86(2) (a)-(e) and (3)-(7), section 88 and 89 and schedule 1 (in force except in so far as inserts Water Industry Act 1991, schedule 1A, para 11). Schedule 7, paras 3, 5, 9 and 41. Schedule 9, part 1 , and part 3 (not in force in relation to certain repeals of or in other legislation)
Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 c.33	All in force
Sustainable Energy Act 2003 c.30*	In force except sections 3 and 4
Animal Health Act 2002 c.42	All in force

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultation, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205850]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA carries out consultation exercises as an integral part of our policy development work. Consultations are funded from local budgets rather than centrally and overall spend could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

While complying with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation, the scale and approach of DEFRA's consultations varies depending on what is appropriate for the issues and stakeholder groups involved. This ranges from consultations with a specific, small group of stakeholders (e.g. Consultation on the Reform of the EU Fruit and Vegetable Regime, which received 12 responses) to far-reaching policies that use multiple approaches to consult with a wider range of stakeholders (e.g. the Climate Change Bill, consultation on which received 16,919 responses).

Departmental Research

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what science and research projects his Department commissioned in each year since 2001; how long each project was expected to last at the time it was commissioned; what cost his Department incurred in relation to each project; and if he will make a statement. [206659]

Jonathan Shaw: An overview of DEFRA's scientific R and D since 2001 is provided in my response to question 3623. Details of all DEFRA-funded scientific research projects commissioned since 2001 are available through the DEFRA R and D website at

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what science and research projects his Department has commissioned which are ongoing; for how long each project is commissioned to run for; what cost has been incurred by his Department on each; when each project is expected to finish; and if he will make a statement. [206660]

Jonathan Shaw: At any one time, DEFRA is responsible for around 2,000 science-related projects. Most of these are research projects commissioned to underpin DEFRA policy formulation and development, but we also fund major 'Non-R and D' programmes covering our monitoring, testing and surveillance activities. Projects range in timescale from single events for sharing knowledge to long-term studies expected to run until 2012 or beyond.

I will place a list of ongoing DEFRA research and development projects in the Library.

Details of all these DEFRA funded projects are available through the DEFRA R and D website at

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on scientific research and development in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [206661]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows:

Financial year	*Spend (£ million)*
2001-02	144
2002-03	144
2003-04	146
2004-05	153
2005-06	156
2006-07	154
2007-08	132

The acquisition and use of evidence is central to the development and delivery of robust policies and operations, and underpins DEFRA's reputation and ability to influence.

In 2007-08 around 95 per cent. of DEFRA's research and development budget was spent by policy groups to directly support their strategic priorities. The remaining funds were used by the central evidence teams to fund cross-cutting and horizon scanning work. In addition to expenditure on research and development, approximately £200 million was spent in 2007-08 on other science, including surveillance, monitoring, field trials and knowledge transfer.

The Secretary of State has asked the DEFRA chief scientific adviser, Professor Bob Watson, to conduct an internal review of current R and D investment. Professor Watson is working with colleagues to find ways in which to

streamline the process of R and D proposal development;

better integrate planning and focus more on cross-links with other areas of DEFRA and its network of agencies;

make more effective use of uncommitted funds, and ensure a better balance in strategic investment profiles;

encourage greater flexibility in budgets to better respond to in-year changes in priorities; and

ensure monitoring and evaluation is commissioned to better assess the impact of policies.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department plans to spend on scientific research and development in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [206662]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA plans to spend approximately £132 million on scientific research and development in the financial year 2008-09, representing about 5 per cent. of DEFRA's total programme budget. DEFRA also plans to continue to fund other science activity, including surveillance, monitoring, field trials and knowledge transfer.

The future spending plans for scientific research and development across the next five years have not yet been agreed. Our focus will continue to be on ensuring that the science that the department procures and uses is both fully relevant to our needs and of the highest quality.

The DEFRA Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Bob Watson, is leading efforts to improve the way in which DEFRA strategically manages and uses evidence, including scientific research and development. These efforts are mainly being directed through DEFRA's new Evidence Programme, which was formally established in April 2008. Key elements of this programme, including the development of an Evidence Strategy, were recently explored at a workshop with key DEFRA staff, colleagues from the Environment Agency and Natural England and members of DEFRA's Science Advisory Council (an independent, non-departmental public body providing expert advice on science policy and strategy). An event is planned for September 2008 to discuss DEFRA's draft evidence investment strategy with other funders and representatives of the science community.

Emergency Services: Radioactive Materials

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has completed the improvement in the system performance of the Nuclear Emergency Planning and Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network; and what the improvements have cost. [207737]

Mr. Woolas: A programme of work to improve the performance of the Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network (RIMNET) system has recently been completed. This has involved some upgrades to system hardware and corresponding software adjustments. The cost of this improvement work has been met by the system supplier.

Forests: Finance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on programmes to combat deforestation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [207609]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have deployed both funding and other resources, such as expertise, and representation through the UN, G8 and Forest Law Enforcement and Governance processes. The causes of deforestation are complex, and actions to address it overlap with governance and biodiversity initiatives.

In March 2007, the Government announced a £50 million UK contribution to a fund to help conserve the Congo Basin rain forest. This will support proposals by 10 central African countries to protect the Congo Basin rain forest from destruction, and will strengthen the work of other donors who are already active in the region.

In Bali last December, the UK announced a contribution of £15 million to the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) which will help developing countries to work out how they can participate in and benefit from evolving incentive mechanisms for avoiding deforestation. The FCPF will provide support for technical and institutional capacity building through a Readiness Fund, and pilot different approaches for providing financial incentives.

Under the Darwin Initiative, the Government have committed more than £65 million to 490 projects in more than 146 countries. Specifically, the Darwin Initiative has funded over 100 projects in over 40 countries with the specific aim of conserving forest biodiversity at a cost of over £15 million of funding.

The UK is contributing £24 million to support implementation of the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. This involves bilateral agreements between the EU and timber-producing countries that will help them develop and implement timber licensing systems. The agreements will seek to address broader governance problems that allow illegal logging and forest destruction in these countries.

The Government support a number of other initiatives, for instance by working with Indonesia under the Indonesia-UK Partnership Forum. The UK provided funding and expertise to help the Government of Indonesia prepare for the UN climate negotiations in Bali, in December. This included a contribution from the Department for International Development of £0.25 million to help Indonesia work on reducing emissions from deforestation.

Concrete: Sittingbourne

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what further steps the Environment Agency has taken on the illegal crushing of concrete by KKB at Four Gun Field in Sittingbourne. [208806]

Jonathan Shaw: I understand that KKB at Four Gun Field has a Paragraph 24 exemption under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007. This is registered with Medway unitary (England and Wales) authority and allows the crushing of concrete at Four Gun Field.

The Environment Agency is part of a multi-agency group including Swale borough council, Medway unitary authority and Kent county council which will take necessary action as and when it is required.

Natural England: Forests

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward measures to make Natural England a statutory consultee for applications to fell ancient woodlands. [209003]

Joan Ruddock: We have no plans to change the current consultation arrangements for tree felling proposals received by the Forestry Commission. This includes consultation with Natural England where felling affects a National Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast.

New Forest Verderers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will implement a system for consultation with relevant local organisations in the New Forest prior to decisions being taken on the appointment or reappointment of the Official Verderer at the end of his term of office. [208810]

Joan Ruddock: We have no plans to change the current arrangements for the selection of a person to be recommended for appointment as Official Verderer. The selection process follows the principles of the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies with appointment on merit being the overriding principle.

Official Visits: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what visits he has made to Essex in the last 12 months. [204698]

Jonathan Shaw: Since becoming Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend has visited Essex once in an official capacity. He visited Ingrebourne Hill in Rainham. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Pesticides: EU Action

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations are being made to the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on the UK's position on proposals to tighten the cut-off criteria for approving essential pesticides. [208811]

Mr. Woolas: The Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) included an initial assessment of the impact of the criteria proposed by the Commission in briefing provided for UK members of the Committee during its first reading of the proposal. The PSD subsequently prepared a detailed impact assessment of both the Commission's proposals and the amendments sought by the Parliament in its first reading, and will include this in briefing provided for UK members of the Committee during the second reading.

Wheat

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the annual consumption of wheat in the UK in each of the last five years, in tonnes. [208122]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the annual consumption of wheat for the calendar years 2003 to 2007, in thousand tonnes, as published in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom" are presented in the following table. It should be noted that the figures for 2007 are provisional only.

Thousand tonnes

Wheat usage	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Total domestic uses	13,419	13,300	13,711	13,598	13,602
Of which:					
flour milling	5,611	5,600	5,642	5,625	5,702
animal feed	6,708	6,627	7,002	6,868	6,742
seed	281	275	254	254	275
other uses and waste	819	798	813	850	882

[1] Provisional.

TREASURY

Sustainable Procurement

9. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Office of Government Commerce is taking to increase sustainable procurement by Government departments. [208608]

Angela Eagle: The Government are committed to becoming one of the leaders in the EU in sustainable procurement by 2009. Driving improvements in sustainable procurement and operations is one of four corporate priorities for the civil service. A new chief sustainability officer, based in the Office of Government Commerce, supported by a Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement is working with Departments to draw up a delivery plan for sustainable procurement and operations, to be published in the summer.

Credit Unions

10. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on proposals for revisions to the legislation on credit unions. [208609]

Kitty Ussher: I have shared with ministerial colleagues the responses to the Treasury consultation on the review of credit union legislation. The responses indicate an overwhelming appetite for reform, and the Government response sets out our intention to legislate subject to parliamentary time.

The Government have brought together a sector working group to develop options for reform.

11. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on support for credit unions. [208611]

Kitty Ussher: Support for credit unions continues to be at the heart of the Government's financial inclusion strategy. The Government will invest £80 million over five years (2006-11) in a growth fund for credit unions and other not-for-profit lenders. More than 100 lenders have already been supported, and more than 70,000 affordable loans have been made to financially excluded clients since 2006. More recently we have been looking at ways of updating credit union legislation to remove impediments to their growth and development.

Vehicle Excise Duty

12. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reassess the proposals to amend vehicle excise duty announced in Budget 2008. [208612]

13. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reconsider his proposals on vehicle excise duty changes announced in Budget 2008. [208613]

Angela Eagle: The vehicle excise duty reforms announced in the Budget are due to be included in the 2009 Finance Bill. The Chancellor keeps all taxation policy under review.

Tackling climate change is the most serious environmental challenge we face, and road transport contributes around a quarter of total UK carbon dioxide emissions. As part of a package of measures to reduce emissions from transport, these VED reforms will send strong signals to motorists to purchase more fuel-efficient new and second-hand cars.

Oil and Gas Prices

14. **Mr. Brady:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the effect on taxation revenues of increases in oil and gas prices in the last 12 months. [208615]

Angela Eagle: Higher oil prices do not result in a significant tax windfall for the Treasury. Higher oil prices generate greater receipts from both North sea corporation tax and petroleum revenue tax, but there are a number of offsetting effects that limit the overall impact on the public finances.

Updated forecasts will be published in the pre-Budget report later this year.

Fuel Prices: Highlands and Islands

15. **Mr. Alan Reid:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the recent rises in the price of fuel on the economy of the Highlands and Islands. [208616]

Angela Eagle: Increases in fuel prices, driven by developments in the global oil and wholesale gas markets, inevitably continue to influence all areas of the UK economy, including the Highlands. However, the UK as a whole is better placed to respond to these challenges than in the past, with record high employment and low inflation. The Highlands and Islands in particular are seeing an employment rate significantly above the UK and Scottish average, and have seen claimant count unemployment falling by 67 per cent. since 1997.

Economic Activity: Warrington

16. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of trends in economic activity in Warrington since 1997. [208617]

Angela Eagle: Since 1997, the economy of the north-west has grown by 4.6 per cent. on average in nominal terms. In Warrington, since 1997 increased economic activity has allowed claimant count unemployment to fall by 40 per cent. and long-term unemployment to fall by 86 per cent. The employment rate in Warrington is now above the national average at 76 per cent.

Income Tax

17. **Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the income distribution of the 1.1 million households which will not be fully compensated for the abolition of the 10p rate of income tax by the measures announced on 13 May 2008. [208618]

Jane Kennedy: The announcement on 13 May means that 80 per cent. of the households who stood to lose from the Budget 2007 reforms are compensated in full, and the remaining 1.1 million will see their losses more than halved.

Details of the household incomes of the 1.1 million households who are not fully compensated are set out in the Memorandum to the Treasury Committee for its inquiry into budget measures and low-income households.

This shows that just over half these households have a gross income above £20,000.

Government's Fiscal Rules

18. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the extent to which levels of public debt and borrowing comply with the Government's fiscal rules. [208619]

Yvette Cooper: Budget 2008 shows that the Government are meeting the fiscal rules. The Government assess performance against the fiscal rules alongside a complete update of both the economic and public finance projections, which take place at the time of Budget and pre-Budget reports. In line with "The Code for Fiscal Stability", the next update on performance against the rules is at the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Oil Prices

19. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with international counterparts on the economic effects of global oil prices. [208620]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has had various discussions with international counterparts in recent months regarding the economic effects of oil prices, including at G7 Finance Ministers' meetings in February and April 2008. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Public-Sector Debt and Borrowing

20. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the accuracy of his Department's forecasts of levels of public-sector debt and public borrowing in the last five years. [208621]

Yvette Cooper: The end of year fiscal report (EYFR) published alongside the pre-Budget report provides a clear and transparent assessment of public-sector debt and public borrowing forecasts.

Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when they are not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208169]

Angela Eagle: Guidance has been issued under the Acceptable Use Policy for both HM Treasury and OGC staff to turn off unused computers when they are not in use, for security reasons and to avoid wasting electrical energy. In addition, Treasury staff are reminded to turn off screens via their 'green screen saver'.

Economic Situation: Education

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of public expenditure on education. [208614]

Yvette Cooper: Investment per pupil in England has increased from under £2,500 in 1997 to over £6,000 in 2008-9. This has supported a big increase in attainment, with more than 60 per cent. of pupils now getting five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C, compared with 45.1 per cent. in 1997. As the Leitch report showed, increasing skills and education has a long-term impact on economic growth.

It is for the devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to determine per-pupil funding levels in their territories, but latest available data reveals that total UK expenditure on education has risen from £37.4 billion in 1997-98 to £76.2 billion in 2007-08.

Financial Services Authority

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what oversight his Department has on consultations undertaken by the Financial Services Authority. [207891]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is operationally independent of Government. The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) requires the Financial Services Authority to consult on rules that it proposes to make, unless it considers that the delay involved in consultation would be prejudicial to consumers. The consultation must include an explanation of the purpose of the proposed rules and a cost-benefit analysis unless there is no increase in costs or the increase in costs will be of minimal significance.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Spelthorne of 1 April and 6 May on behalf of his constituent, Mrs Helen Seeley. [207790]

Jane Kennedy: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Minimum Wage: Enforcement

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are allocated to enforcement of the national minimum wage in each region and nation of the UK. [207913]

Jane Kennedy: The numbers of enforcement staff and their locations by region and nation are in the following table.

	Number of enforcement staff
Region	
Scotland	12
Northern Ireland	8
Wales	8
North West	16
North East	10
Yorkshire and Humber	15
East Midlands	7
West Midlands	8
East of England	8
South East	14
South West	8
London	9
Nation	
Scotland	12
Northern Ireland	8
Wales	8
England	95

Minimum Wage: Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints the National Minimum Wage hotline has received in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [207912]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the number of complaints received about possible underpayment of the minimum wage. The figures include complaints received by the National Minimum Wage Helpline and some other sources such as email.

	Complaints
2005-06	2,141
2006-07	2,210
2007-08	3,231

National Debt

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the national debt was as a percentage of GDP in real terms in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1995, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2005; [208051]

(2) what the national debt was as a percentage of GNP in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1995, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2005; [208052]

(3) what the national debt was per working person in real terms in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1995, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2005. [208053]

Angela Eagle: For the purposes of assessing performance against the sustainable investment rule, public sector net debt is measured as a percentage of GDP. Figures for the public-sector net debt (£ billion) and public-sector net debt as a percentage of GDP are published monthly on Table A7 and Table A8, respectively, of the Public Finances Databank produced by HM Treasury, which is available on

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pubsec_finance/psf_statistics.cfm

The Office for National Statistics does not specifically release figures for the gross national product (GNP), but releases figures for gross national income (GNI), which can be found in the Blue Book on Table 1.2: Gross National Income in Current Prices (series ABMX).

Figures for the working age population are released by the Office for National Statistics, based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which can be found in Labour Market Statistics on Table 1: Population (all) aged 16-59/64 and Economically active (all) aged 16-59/64 (series YBTF and YBSK, respectively).

Both GNI and LFS figures are available on

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdtimezone.asp

Public Expenditure: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average public expenditure per capita in the City of York was in 1996-97 and 2007-08. [208610]

Yvette Cooper: The lowest level at which public expenditure per capita information is available is the region. Between 1996-97 and 2007-08 (planned spend), per capita public expenditure on services in the Yorkshire and Humberside region grew from £3,989 to £7,590.

Railways: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of expenditure on rail infrastructure. [208603]

Angela Eagle: The most recent assessment of the effects on the economy of expenditure on all modes of transport was made in the Eddington Transport Study carried out by Sir Rod Eddington for the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Transport in December 2006.

The Department for Transport also published a White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", in July 2007 fulfilling the remit the Government set themselves in 2005 to provide strategic direction for the rail industry.

Revenue and Customs: Internet

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cost of the current update project for the HM Revenue and Customs website. [208745]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs is currently undertaking a web convergence project to improve its customer facing web content and manage the transition of that content to the Businesslink.gov.uk and Directgov websites by March 2011. The estimated cost of the web convergence project is approximately £10 million over a five-year period from 2007-12.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs employees worked on preventing the importation of *(a)* controlled drugs, *(b)* illegal firearms and *(c)* illicit (i) alcohol and (ii) tobacco in each year since 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [206518]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 19 May 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs frontline detection staff are multifunctional and are deployed on an intelligence-led basis according to risk. As a result it is not possible to break down the deployment of staff by commodity, as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention of crime.

The previous year's detection staffing figures for HM Revenue and Customs are provided in the following table.

	Number
2002-03	3,790
2003-04	3,754
2004-05	3,910
2005-06	4,256
2006-07	4,397
2007-08	4,495

Smuggling: Wildlife

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* successfully prosecuted for attempting to smuggle into the UK (i) turtle shells and (ii) other items derived from endangered species in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [207732]

Jane Kennedy: Since April 2000 nine people have been successfully prosecuted for offences relating to the illegal importation into the UK of endangered species and derived products in breach of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. One case, in which one person was convicted, involved the smuggling of various animal skulls including a turtle skull.

Officers of HM Revenue and Customs do not have statutory powers to issue a caution to an offender as an alternative to prosecution.

Unemployment

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of three to five-year-olds were living in *(a)* workless households and *(b)* relative poverty in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [205613]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

In the period April to June 2007, there were around 350,000 children in the United Kingdom aged between three and five years old living in workless working age households. This corresponds to 17.5 per cent. of all three to five-year-olds.

The Government's preferred measure of relative low income poverty for children is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income on a Before Housing Cost basis. In 2005-06, there were 0.5 million children in the United Kingdom aged between three and five years old in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median income on a Before Housing Cost basis. This corresponds to 23 per cent. of all three to five-year-olds.

Notes:

Workless households

1. Figures for households are based on working age households. A working age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

2. The source of these statistics is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the UK in each three-month period.

3. The LFS quarterly household datasets used to provide this estimate are weighted to the 2003 population estimates. Datasets reweighted to the latest population estimates are currently expected to be available in summer 2008.

4. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Relative Poverty

5. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data, 2005-06.

6. The reference period for HBAI figures is single financial years.

7. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

8. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.

9. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income.

10. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children, while proportions of children have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of children were born into *(a)* workless households and *(b)* relative poverty in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [205620]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Valuation Office: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency's electronic records project involves the digitisation of information on age, size and construction of domestic properties. [208078]

Jane Kennedy: The project involves the scanning of existing hard copy survey records held by the VOA, including those of domestic properties. More information about this project can be found on the VOA website at

http://www.voa.gov.uk/news/press08/news_release_15_05_08.htm

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget is for the Valuation Office Agency's electronic records project. [208079]

Jane Kennedy: A significant part of the cost of this project relates to services provided by external contractors, whose charges are commercially confidential.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many compensation payments for tax credit maladministration have been made in each quarter from April 2003 to April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [207121]

Jane Kennedy: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet C/FS 'Complaints and Putting Things Right' which is available at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/factsheets/complaints-factsheet.pdf.

The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of any mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused.

For the number and value of compensation payments made in 2003-04, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers my predecessor gave the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) and to the then hon. Member for the former Hamilton, South constituency, Mr. Bill Tynan, on 20 July 2004, *Official Report,* column 191W.

For the number and value of compensation payments made in 2004-05, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers my predecessor gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report,* columns 95-96W, 15 November 2005, *Official Report,* column 1212W and 18 July 2006, *Official Report,* columns 360-61W.

Information for 2006-07 can be found in the answer I gave the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 23 January 2008, *Official Report,* columns 2100 -01W.

Quarterly information for 2007-08 is shown in the following table:

2007-08	
	Number
April to June	2,369
July to September	1,158
October to December	2,896
January to March	2,097

The information for 2007-08 differs from that published in answers that I gave the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne on 23 January 2008, *Official Report,* columns 2100-01W and the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 31 March 2008: columns 675-76W. The Department started recording information about compensation payments made to its customers on a new database from the beginning of 2007-08. In finalising the details for 2007-08 HMRC identified that the bespoke query used to extract this information was producing inaccurate results. The total value of compensation paid by TCO to tax credits customers in 2007-08 was around £475,000.

Monthly figures for 2003-04 are not available, and therefore the quarterly figures cannot be given for that year.

Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department received on the tax credit system from residents in *(a)* Wakefield District and *(b)* Yorkshire and Humberside in the last year for which figures are available. [207967]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available at constituency or regional level.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Better Off in Work Credit

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable he has set for the pilots of the Better Off in Work Credit; when he plans to introduce the credit nationally; what budget has been set for administering the credit in each of the next three years; and what estimate he has made of the total value of the credit to recipients in each of the next three years. [204647]

Mr. Timms: As we stated in the Command Paper 'Ready for work: full employment in our generation', published on 13 December 2007, the new Better Off in Work Credit will be piloted from October 2008. If the pilot proves successful we will extend the scheme nationally in 2009.

On 20 May 2008, I announced that Jobcentre Plus would pilot the new measure in all districts in the Yorkshire and Humberside region, a total of 59 Jobcentre Plus offices. We estimate that around 12,000 individuals would be eligible for the credit each year in the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

Administrative costs will be dependent on the operational model currently being developed by Jobcentre Plus and will be met from within existing resources.

The projected annual cost of the Better Off in Work Credit payments will be £31 million if rolled out nationally.

Child Support Agency: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone calls to the Child Support Agency were abandoned by *(a)* agency staff and *(b)* clients in each month since May 2005. [200816]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 5 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone calls to the Child Support Agency have been abandoned by (a) Agency staff and (b) clients in each month since May 2005. [200816]

Information on the Agency's telephony performance is routinely published in Table 16 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics, the latest copy of which can be found in the House of Commons library or at the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar08.asp.

The attached table shows the diminishing number of telephone calls abandoned by clients in each month since May 2005. The first column of the table shows calls abandoned by the client during the automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) process (for example, where the client does not have a National Insurance number to hand and hangs up to obtain it before calling back). In the year to March 2008 eight percent of calls were abandoned by the client at this stage.

The second column of the table includes all abandoned calls from clients with cases managed on the old system (CSCS) which are not routed through the automated Interactive Voice Response process. It also includes calls relating to cases managed on the new system (CS2) abandoned by the client following the Interactive Voice Response process when their call is in a queue waiting to be answered by the Agency. In the year to March 2008, just one percent of clients abandoned the call at this stage. Once in a queue on either the old or new system, it is not possible for the Agency to abandon a call from a client, neither can the Agency abandon a call during the automated Interactive Voice Response process.

The Agency has shown a significant and sustained improvement in telephony performance since the introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan. In the year ending March 2008 the Agency received a total of 5,369,000 calls from clients. Agency people answered 98% of telephone calls available to be answered, with an average waiting time of just 20 seconds.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Telephone calls to Child Support Agency abandoned by clients May 2005 to March 2008

Month	*Calls abandoned/lost during the IVR process*	*Calls abandoned in the queue (overall Agency)*
May 2005	24,038	35,058
June 2005	16,593	39,613
July 2005	19,288	37,882
August 2005	22,668	35,946
September 2005	26,488	59,598
October 2005	29,357	37,851
November 2005	30,355	26,934
December 2005	22,237	15,440
January 2006	29,841	24,171
February 2006	27,569	8,706
March 2006	33,394	26,824
April 2006	24,442	10,910
May 2006	27,620	11,734
June 2006	32,014	7,259
July 2006	30,288	9,515
August 2006	27,274	9,898
September 2006	30,100	19,838
October 2006	34,508	14,910
November 2006	34,746	4,865
December 2006	23,193	3,557
January 2007	35,402	8,357
February 2007	32,031	5,903
March 2007	34,505	9,114
April 2007	28,056	6,727
May 2007	30,719	6,650
June 2007	31,076	8,163
July 2007	34,054	9,311
August 2007	29,490	6,173
September 2007	29,511	5,138
October 2007	32,818	5,931
November 2007	31,464	5,726
December 2007	20,065	4,046
January 2008	33,804	6,246
February 2008	34,176	6,059
March 2008	28,983	6,077

1. The first column includes new system (CS2) telephone calls abandoned during the Agency's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system as the telephony system gathers information to route the call through to the relevant team.
2. There is no IVR process for old scheme telephone calls. Calls are classified as abandoned if the client terminates the call before the Agency member of staff is able to respond.
3. The second column shows telephony outcomes for calls relating to cases on both the new system (CS2) and old system (CSCS).

Compensation: Disabled People

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place to ensure that claimants awarded a compensatory payment for errors made by his Department are *(a)* notified to and *(b)* agreed with the claimant before payment is made; and what consideration is made of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 during this process. [207447]

Mrs. McGuire: The DWP is committed to meeting the needs of disabled people. We aim to go further than the legal requirements, and intend the Department to set a leading example to other organisations.

The Department is focused on providing high standards of customer service, and seeks to provide rapid and satisfactory resolution of any customer complaints. In the event that agency error or delay may have an adverse effect on a customer, the Department operates a discretionary scheme providing financial redress. Under these arrangements a special payment can be made to compensate for the impact of any error on the customer.

Support from staff is available where needed but special payments are considered and awards made without the need for the customer to complete any documentation..

Notification of a special payment is sent to customers, and they are given the opportunity to discuss this if they are dissatisfied with the award. When it is known that a customer has a specific communication barrier, we will ensure that our written information is accessible by producing our correspondence in a different format as appropriate. When the use of written communication may not be suitable or available for a customer, customers will be offered an appropriate alternative.

Departmental Press Releases

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's procedure is for publishing announcements on *(a)* the publication of departmental research reports and *(b)* departmental policy. [205483]

Mrs. McGuire: The publication of the Department's research reports are usually announced by way of a press release. These are placed on the Department's website and copied to subscribers.

The majority of our reports will also be announced by way of a factual analytical press notice. Analytical press notices are routinely issued with most research reports produced by the Department to announce their publication including highlighting the key findings of the report. When the report is considered to be of significant public interest, a ministerial press notice may also be issued.

DWP does not have a discrete procedure for announcing departmental policy. Ministers follow the principles contained in section 9 of the ministerial code that major policy announcements should be given to Parliament before being announced in the media.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria his Department uses to decide what information it should publish with a press release. [205484]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department releases four main types of press notices in the course of its routine business.

Analytical press notices are issued routinely alongside most research reports produced by the Department to announce their publication.

Statistical releases set out key figures and are issued in conjunction with the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Ministerial press notices are issued when there is likely to be a significant public interest in an issue—for example, the launch of a new policy.

Operational press notices are issued, where appropriate, in relation to operational and delivery issues, for example to invite media to attend events organised by the Department such as the opening of a new Jobcentre Plus office.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date and at what time his Department's press releases on DWP research report *(a)* 472, *(b)* 481, *(c)* 486 and *(d)* 467 were first released; to whom each release was circulated; and when each release was uploaded on to the departmental website. [205510]

Mrs. McGuire: The analytical press releases for each of the four research reports were released on Wednesday 7 May 2008 at 1.30 pm. In line with standard practice for analytical releases, all four were published on the DWP internet site.

Departmental Publications

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the *(a)* family resources survey, *(b)* households below average income and *(c)* pensioners income series; and when he expects each to be published. [197950]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Secretary of State gave to him by letter on 28 April 2008.

Fabian Society

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the speech he made on Tuesday 6 May 2008 to the Fabian Society was made in a ministerial capacity. [205481]

James Purnell: The Fabian Society invited the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to speak at its spring lecture event on the Department's role in fulfilling the Government's child poverty reduction commitments. The speech covered both political and departmental issues.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual savings resulting from the reduction in backdating facilities for housing benefit and council tax benefit; and how such savings will be allocated. [200094]

Mr. Plaskitt: The changes to backdating for housing benefit and council tax benefit are part of a package of measures, rather than an individual change. Taken together, these changes will simplify and improve the claims process for pensioners by allowing claims for up to four benefits to be dealt with in a single telephone call, extending the period pension credit recipients can spend abroad without losing benefit and introducing indefinite assessed income periods for pension credit recipients aged 80 or over. Savings from the backdating changes will go towards the additional take-up that will result from the other changes in the package.

The available information is in the table.

Estimated savings from proposed changes to housing benefit and council tax benefit backdating

	£ million, 2007-08 prices
2008	35
2009	70
2010	70
2015	70
2020	65

Notes:

1. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest £5 million
2. Figures relate to financial years.
3. Estimated savings are consistent with the 2008 Budget settlement but they are based on a set of assumptions and are subject to change as new data become available.
4. Estimates are based on a single data extract. The backdating variable within the extract was introduced relatively recently, which means that we have no way of corroborating the robustness of the data.
5. Estimated savings from the housing benefit/council tax benefit backdating measure have been projected forward from 2011 in line with the growth in the long-run forecast of expenditure on housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Source:

Single HB extract from local authority computer systems

In Work Emergency Fund

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals received a payment from the *(a)* in work emergency fund and *(b)* in work emergency fund for lone parents in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available, broken down by (i) region and (ii) local authority area; [204645]

(2) how many individuals have received a payment from the in work emergency fund in each year since its inception; what the total amount of payment made by the fund was in each such year; what the cost of administering the fund was in each such year; and what the average administrative cost per payment was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [204646]

Mr. Timms: Only lone parents are eligible to claim in work emergency fund (IWEF) payments. Since 28 April 2008, the IWEF has been replaced by the In Work

Emergency Discretion Fund, which is available to lone parents nationally and to couple parents in New Deal Plus pilot areas.

In the 12 months from April 2007 to March 2008, 360 lone parents received IWEF payments.

Available figures on IWEF payments cannot be broken down by region and local authority area.

Information on the number of lone parents who received IWEF payments in each year since its inception, and the total amount of payments made, is shown in the following table.

	Number of lone parents receiving IWEF	*Total payment (£)*
October 2004 to March 2005	80	16,000
April 2005 to March 2006	240	49,200
April 2006 to March 2007	200	53,100
April 2007 to March 2008	360	97,100
Total	860	215,500

Notes:
1. Payments are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. If more than one payment was made to a lone parent, the date of the first payment has been used and the total of the payments recorded.

Source:
Resource Management database.

The average administrative cost per payment in the most recent period (2007-08) where figures are available is £14.34. This figure includes all staff and non-staff costs, IT and Estates overheads. In 200708, 400 payments were made which, combined with the average cost of £14.34, gives a total administration figure of £5,736[1]. Administrative costs per payment for earlier years are not available.

[1] The figures for the payments made and costs of administration do not come from the same data source. Therefore slight inconsistencies may exist in the data. The figures given are indications rather than actuals.

"New Statesman"

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the article written for the *New Statesman* of 8 May 2008 was written in an official capacity. [205486]

James Purnell: The article in question was written from a political perspective.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incidents of benefit fraud relating to each type of benefit were reported to the Benefit Fraud Hotline in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [206014]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down by benefit type. The available information is in the following table.

Benefit Fraud Hotline reports by type, Great Britain

Method of reporting	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Phone to National Benefit Fraud Hotline	153,176	150,083	149,991	155,095	163,682
Internet and written	60,054	38,504	65,367	79,825	76,659

Source:
National Benefit Fraud Hotline.

Staff Turnover

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the staff turnover of each business unit located in Fylde was in the latest period for which figures are available; [205693]

(2) what the staff turnover rate was for administrative officers working in *(a)* Warbreck Hill Call Centre, *(b)* Shared Services Warbreck Hill and *(c)* the Child Support Agency at Peel Hill in the latest period for which figures are available. [205694]

Mrs. McGuire: The staff turnover for each business unit located in the Fylde for the 12-month period from 30 April 2007 to 30 April 2008 is shown in the following table:

Business name	*Turnover (percentage)*
Child Support Agency—Fylde	9.5
Corporate and Shared Services—Fylde	3.7
Disability and Carers Service—Fylde	3.4
Jobcentre Plus—Fylde	4.4
The Pensions Service—Fylde	8.7
Overall DWP—Fylde	4.3

The staff turnover rate for administrative officers working in *(a)* Warbreck Hill Call Centre *(b)* Shared Services Warbreck Hill and *(c)* The Child Support Agency at Peel Hill are shown in the following table:

Location	*Business*	*Building*	*AO turnover (percentage)*
(a) Warbreck Hill Call Centre	Disability and Carers Service	Warbreck House	4.2
(b) Warbreck Hill	Shared Services	Warbreck House	[1]—
(c) Peel Hill	Child Support Agency	Peel Park	[2]—

[1] Not applicable, no AOs employed.

[2] Child Support Agency staff presence at Peel Park commenced February 2008. 12 month turnover rate not yet available.

Note:

The Department calculates turnover by dividing the number of permanent staff (includes fixed term appointments of over 12 months) who leave in a 12 month period, by the average number of staff employed in the same period (calculated as a mean figure using the number of staff at the start and end of the period).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Belarus, with particular reference to protection for Christian human rights activists and politicians; what recent representations he has made on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [207851]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government continue to have serious concerns about the lack of respect for human rights in Belarus, including the curtailment of religious freedom, and monitor the situation closely. The Government's assessment of the situation in Belarus can be found in our latest annual Human Rights report, available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at

www.fco.gov.uk.

The Government regularly raise concerns about the harsh treatment of civil society groups, including faith groups, and human rights violations in general. We work closely with our EU partners and the US to raise these concerns and maintain effective pressure for improvement. Recent representations include statements issued by the EU on 29 April criticising recent regime actions, and on 8 May in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Council. Both documents are available on the website of the current Slovene European presidency at

www.eu2008.si/en.

Bombs

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the Government plan to seek exemptions from the convention on cluster munitions at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference. [207441]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* On 28 May my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced the Government's support for a ban on cluster munitions, including UK munitions currently in service. This step confirmed the Government's commitment to address the humanitarian concerns that cluster munitions raise. We are pleased to be able to support the draft convention on cluster munitions that was adopted in Dublin on 30 May. We believe that the future convention will put in place an effective framework not only to prevent civilian casualties, but to provide for international co-operation and clearance that will facilitate clearance of contaminated areas and care for victims of cluster munitions.

Burma: Political Prisoners

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to seek to secure the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners in Burma. [207665]

Meg Munn: On 27 May, the Burmese regime decided to extend Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest for a further 12 months. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a public statement on 27 May expressing his sadness that the Burmese Government had extended Aung San Suu Kyi's detention. He also said that while our immediate focus is on relieving the suffering caused by the recent cyclone, restoration of democracy in Burma is still vital for that country's long-term future. He urged the Burmese Government to release Aung San Suu Kyi and allow her to play her rightful role in the process of genuine national reconciliation. On 29 May, the EU presidency issued a statement which "strongly deplored" the decision to renew Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest.

The member states of the EU continue to call for the release of opposition political figures. Measures adopted under the EU Common Position remain in place to underpin pressure on the regime to move to an inclusive democratic system of governance. In a President's Statement last month, the UN Security Council reaffirmed its call last October for the release of political prisoners in Burma.

Caribbean: Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Government officials accompanied HRH the Prince of Wales on his official visit to the Caribbean in March 2008; what *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation costs incurred in respect of officials were met from public funds; and what costs were met by (i) his Department, (ii) the Department for Transport and (iii) another source. [207682]

Meg Munn: No Government officials accompanied His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on his official visit to the Caribbean. Between three and 14 members of our respective high commission/governor's office participated in the visit locally.

Accounts for the visit have not been finalised. I will write to my hon. Friend with the travel and accommodation costs incurred by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as soon as they are available, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Air and sea travel costs for the royal party were met by the royal travel grant in aid, provided by the Department for Transport. The funding of official travel by members of the Royal Family is administered by the royal travel office in Her Majesty the Queen's household. Travel costs will be published in the royal grant in aid annual report, which will be published later this year.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207466]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not yet determined variable pay (bonus) awards for its UK civil servants based on appraisal of performance during the 2007-08 financial year.

The level of variable and base pay awards for staff in the delegated grades (all grades below senior management) for performance in 2007-08 will depend on the outcome of negotiations, currently under way, on a new three-year reward settlement for the period 2008-11.

Annual variable pay awards for staff in the senior management structure/senior civil service reflect the extent to which staff have achieved their objectives and how they have achieved them. The framework for determining base and variable pay awards for senior staff in the civil service is set centrally by the Government in response to the annual findings of the Senior Salaries Review Body. The FCO pay committees, which determine individual awards within this framework, are due to complete their recommendations by early July.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people were recruited to his Department under the Diplomatic Fast Stream programme in each of the last 10 years. [207925]

David Miliband: Since 2000, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recruited the following numbers of people under the Fast Stream programme:

Number of people recruited to the FCO under the Diplomatic Fast Stream programme

	Number
2000	34
2001	30
2002	33
2003	33
2004	21
2005	24
2006	26
2007	28

The FCO does not hold information on Fast Stream recruitment prior to 2000 and this information cannot be obtained without the incurring of disproportionate cost.

As the FCO's Fast Stream Final Selection Boards for 2008 will not be completed until mid-June, the number of successful candidates is not yet available.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people recruited to his Department in the last financial year were aged *(a)* 20 to 30, *(b)* 31 to 40, *(c)* 41 to 50 and *(d)* 51 to 60. [207927]

David Miliband: The following table provides a breakdown of permanent recruits to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services—a Trading Fund of the FCO—in the age groups specified during the 2007-08 financial year.

Age group	*Number recruited to the FCO in the 2007-08 financial year*	*Number recruited to FCO services in the 2007-08 financial year*
20 to 30	153	5
31 to 40	19	11
41 to 50	12	15
51 to 60	4	5

Indonesia: Politics and Government

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Indonesian Government to encourage them to prevent violence directed at the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Indonesia. [207501]

Meg Munn: We are aware that the Indonesian Government are currently considering a recommendation from a governmental advisory body that a ban should be imposed on Ahmadiyya. Anti-Ahmadiyya demonstrations have taken place in different parts of Indonesia, and several mosques have been damaged.

Our ambassador in Jakarta raised UK concerns about the possible ban with the Indonesian authorities on 28 April 2008. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London have also met representatives from the UK Ahmadiyya Association to hear their concerns. At the UN Human Rights Council examination of Indonesia under the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva on 9 April, the UK raised concerns about the treatment of the Ahmadiyya community. We are also discussing the issue with our EU partners.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and continue to raise the issue of respect for religious freedom with the Indonesian authorities.

Iran: Prisoners

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the arrest on 14 May and the detention in Evin prison of Fabriba Kamalabadi, Jamaloddin Khanjani, Afifi Naeimi, Saied Rezaie, Behrouz Tavakki and Vahid Tifzah, all of whom co-ordinate the activities of the Baha'i community in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [207490]

Dr. Howells: We are deeply concerned by the arrests of the informal Baha'i leadership in Tehran on 14 May and the ongoing persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran. We remain committed to pressing the Government of Iran to address their poor human rights record, including by protecting the right to religious freedom and ending the discrimination of the Baha'is in Iran. Following a recommendation by the UK, the EU issued a public declaration on 21 May which expressed

> "serious concern about the continuing systematic discrimination and harassment of the Iranian Baha'is on the grounds of their religion"

and called for the release of the detained individuals. We will continue to raise this issue with the Iranian authorities.

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the detention since 5 March of Mrs Mahuash Sabet, an Iranian Baha'i first held in Mashud and subsequently in Evin prison; and if he will make a statement. [207491]

Dr. Howells: We remain deeply concerned about the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran and the recent arrests of the Baha'i leadership in particular. We have not specifically raised Mrs. Sabet's detention with the Iranian authorities, but we regularly raise our concerns about the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran with the Iranian authorities bilaterally and through the EU. I raised UK concerns about the treatment of the Baha'is in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador on 1 April, and the EU has raised concerns at least four times this year in meetings with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through public declarations. Most recently, on 21 May, the EU issued a public statement urging Iran to respect religious freedoms, end the persecution of the Baha'is and release the detained Baha'i leaders. We will make representations for the Baha'is situation, including Mrs. Sabet's case, to be included in the next EU human rights démarche.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the performance of the right hon. Tony Blair in his capacity as middle east peace envoy against his objectives; and if he will make a statement. [208924]

Dr. Howells: The right hon. Tony Blair is making a valuable contribution to the peace process. Despite the difficulties, the Quartet, and Mr. Blair as its representative, play a significant role in supporting the Annapolis process.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanism exists to *(a)* brief the right hon. Tony Blair and *(b)* receive reports from the right hon. Tony Blair in respect of his activities as Middle East peace envoy; and on how many occasions each has occurred to date. [208925]

Dr. Howells: The right hon. Tony Blair reports to the Quartet on and when required by it. There is no formal mechanism or requirement for him to report to or be briefed by the Government, but we stay in close touch with him and his team.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been allocated to the right hon. Tony Blair's activities as middle east peace envoy; on what date this funding was agreed; what further expenditure is anticipated; and over what period. [208926]

Dr. Howells: The UK has provided £400,000 to a UN Development Programme Trust Fund which gives support to the Quartet representative. These funds were allocated in September 2007. In addition, the Government have seconded four staff to his team for whom the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development continue to fund salaries and allowances. No decision has been made on future UK contribution.

Treaty of Lisbon

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on posts and institutions created by the Treaty of Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [206817]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with all our EU partners and with the EU institutions on a variety of issues.

As set out in my letters of 22 April to the chairs of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee and the Lords EU Select Committee, technical-level discussions to prepare for implementation have begun. While it is only sensible to ensure that the EU is ready to implement the treaty—if all countries have ratified it—we have made it clear to, and agreed with, our EU partners that no final decisions can be taken until ratification is confirmed.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps UK embassies have been taking to encourage *(a)* foreign Governments to join the International Whaling Commission to support the international moratorium on commercial whaling and *(b)* existing International Whaling Commission members to support the international moratorium on commercial whaling; and if he will make a statement. [207252]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has instructed our embassies and high commissions to lobby certain Governments to join the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in support of the moratorium on commercial whaling and to encourage attendance at the annual IWC meeting. A key component of the lobbying campaign is the updated publication by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, "Protecting Whales—a global responsibility", which was delivered to Governments with a covering letter from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Since last year's IWC meeting, Uruguay and Romania have joined the IWC as anti-whaling countries and Nicaragua has regained its voting rights.

Our embassies and high commissions have also been instructed to lobby certain existing IWC members with a view to maximising support for the moratorium at the Plenary Session of the Annual Meeting of the IWC, which will be held in Santiago between 23 and 27 June 2008.

HEALTH

Abortions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in England and Wales had had *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven and *(h)* eight or more abortions at the most recent date for which figures are available. [207026]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is shown in the following table, which is from the "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006". Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Legal abortions: number of previous abortions by age[1], 2006: England and Wales, residents

Number of previous abortions	*Total*	*Under 18*	*18-24*	*25-29*	*30+*
0	131,833	17,173	57,000	28,222	29,438
1	47,156	1,341	17,047	13,697	15,071
2	10,944	82	3,147	3,540	4,175
3	2,501	[2]—	[2]—	826	1,128
4	947	[2]—	[2]—	300	412
5	192	[2]—	[2]—	65	108
6	110	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	53
7 or more	54	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	33
Total	193,737	18,619	78,007	46,693	50,418

[1] Age not stated have been distributed pro-rata across age group 20-24.

[2] Values are suppressed where totals are less than 10 (0-9) or where a presented total would reveal the suppressed value.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* direct Government and *(b)* Lottery funding was allocated to (i) awareness programmes and (ii) rehabilitation services for (A) alcohol addiction and (B) addiction to illegal drugs in each year since 1997. [200457]

Dawn Primarolo: We have financial information on direct Government alcohol expenditure from 2002-03. Figures for previous years were held on a financial system, which is no longer accessible.

Alcohol awareness raising

		£ million
	Department of Health	*Home Office*
2000-01	—	—
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	0.10	—
2003-04	0.05	—
2004-05	0.34	—
2005-06	0.06	—
2006-07	1.9	2.0
2007-08	1.3	3.5
2008-09	[1]6.0	[1]4.0

[1] Planned

No direct Government funding was allocated to rehabilitation services for alcohol addiction. National health service primary care trusts and local social services authorities are responsible for commissioning these services.

With regard to illegal drugs the FRANK information campaign was launched in May 2003 and provides young people and their families with advice and information about illegal drugs.

This campaign is jointly funded by the Department of Health, the Home Office, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The total joint annual funding for the FRANK campaign are shown in the following table.

	Funding (£ million)
2003-04	4.25
2004-05	4.30
2005-06	6.17
2006-07	9.05
2007-08	6.13
2008-09	5.35

Prior to the FRANK campaign the former Health Education Authority ran the National Drugs Helpline from 1996 to 2002. Funding figures for these years are not available.

There was no direct Government funding for rehabilitation services prior to 2001-02. Health authorities were expected to fund drug treatment services, including rehabilitation services, from their existing budgets.

Since 2001-02, the Department of Health and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB). There are no separate allocations for rehabilitation services.

The PTB is allocated to the 149 drug action teams across the country to use, along with local mainstream funding, to provide treatment and services according to specific local needs. The following table gives details of the PTB since 2001-02.

	PTB (£ million)
2001-02	142
2002-03	191
2003-04	236
2004-05	253
2005-06	300
2006-07	385
2007-08	398
2008-09	398

Concerning lottery funding, although the Big Lottery Fund has supported projects in the fields of drug and alcohol abuse, information in the form requested is not held centrally.

Benzodiazepines: Misuse

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance the Chief Medical Officer has issued to doctors and other medical practitioners on benzodiazepine withdrawal. [208544]

Dawn Primarolo: In January 2004, following concerns about continued reports of problems with long-term use of benzodiazepines, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) issued a reminder that benzodiazepines should only be prescribed for short-term treatment in his newsletter CMO Update. The most recent publication of relevance from the Department of Health was CMO Update 37 of 9 February 2007 which reminded all doctors in England about safe prescribing of benzodiazepines. This publication is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersand circulars/CMOupdate/DH_4070172

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to consult on proposals for changes to the Care Home Charging Regulations and the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide. [208420]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will undertake public consultation in 2008 on the recommendations of a group of key stakeholders on changes to the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide (CRAG). These consultations will be in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, allowing 12 weeks for comments to be submitted. Any changes agreed by Ministers will be implemented at an appropriate date after the end of the consultation.

From 2007, the Department has not consulted on the uprating of items in the regulations and CRAG, such as the capital limits and personal expenses allowance, where any such changes are simply being uprated using the formula applied in previous years. However, consultation will take place if there are other proposed changes.

Dementia: Research

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 619W, on dementia research funding, how *(a)* the £18.3 million of funding from his Department and *(b)* the £6 million Medical Research Council funding for 2006 was spent. [208365]

Dawn Primarolo: The main part of the Department's expenditure on dementia research in 2005-06 (some £16.5 million) was spent by national health service providers from the allocations made to them for research and development to meet NHS priorities and needs and the costs to the NHS of hosting research supported by external funders. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx.

The balance was spent on projects commissioned by the Department's Health Technology Assessment, Service Delivery and Organisation, and Policy Research Programmes; and on the first year costs of the Dementias and Neurodegenerative Disease Research Network.

The total Medical Research Council (MRC) expenditure in 2005-06 was devoted to 38 grants and programmes in MRC units and institutes,

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208176]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has a policy of encouraging staff to switch off all electrical equipment when not in use, including personal computers. The issue has been highlighted at a number of staff awareness events, and all e-mails sent by staff in our Information Services Directorate have the strapline "Save energy - shut down your PC and turn off your monitor every night".

All our current information technology (IT) equipment conforms to the current 'Quick Wins', specification for power management. 'Quick Wins' are a set of mandatory minimum environmental standards for the procurement of a variety of goods, including IT equipment. Looking to the future, the Department is developing a green IT strategy which will include a commitment to review our power management arrangements and systems.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in negotiations on maximum permitted levels for nutrients under the Food Supplements Directive; and if he will make a statement. [208231]

Dawn Primarolo: The European Commission (EC) has indicated its intention for proposals in the form of draft amending legislation to go forward to the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) for consideration in early 2009.

To inform its proposals, the EC has to date held two working group meetings with Member states, the last on 17 December 2007. The EC's principal aim for these meetings was to obtain member states' initial views on an orientation paper it had issued in the summer of 2007.

We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that general discussions in the meetings revealed that whilst member states support the broad objective of setting maximum levels on the basis of safety and science, many are yet to establish a position. In these initial meetings the FSA has promoted the use of scientific evidence in establishing maximum levels.

Disabled: Medical Equipment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether installation and personal advice will be part of any extension of home delivery of disability equipment under the Transforming Community Equipment programme; and if he will make a statement. [208689]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The installation and personal advice provided as part of community equipment home delivery services are included in the Transforming Community Equipment Programme.

Local authority and health partnerships will continue in their statutory duty to meet the needs of those individuals who require state support. Retailers will continue to offer a range of services, including installation and personal advice, to those who self fund.

Incontinence: Children

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he issues to primary care trusts on working with local authorities on joined-up services for children with continence issues; [208229]

(2) what estimate he has made of the capacity of children's continence services. [208230]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (The NSF) included guidance on the importance of joined up continence services for children and young people. We have not made any formal estimate nationally of the capacity of children's continence service. Copies of the NSF are available in the Library.

Methamphetamine: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were treated for addiction to methamphetamine in each of the last five years; [208059]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of users of methamphetamine in England; and if he will make a statement. [208061]

Dawn Primarolo: Methamphetamine is part of the amphetamine family and is commonly known as crystal meth or ice, its chemical name is methylamphetamine. Although the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) does collects data on people in structured drug treatment for amphetamine misuse, these data are not broken down further into the different types of amphetamine.

In 2005, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) used NDTMS data in their review of methylamphetamine, "Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs Methylamphetamine Review". The ACMD review reported that

> "very few drug users applying for treatment were reporting methylamphetamine as either their primary drug or as a secondary drug"

of use.

MMR Vaccine

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1886W, on vaccines, (1) how many doses of the differently labelled MMR vaccines were *(a)* supplied and *(b)* distributed, broken down by financial year;. [203617]

(2) in what way the labelling on the MMR vaccines not destined for the UK differed from the UK-licensed product; [203618]

(3) on what dates the differently labelled MMR vaccines were supplied; [203619]

(4) on what date further supplies of UK-licensed MMR vaccine were received, allowing the wrongly-labelled vaccines to be written off. [203620]

Dawn Primarolo: 19,999 doses of United States (US) MMRII and 96,998 doses of Portuguese MMRII were supplied to the Department between May and June 2005. Of these, 16,879 doses of US MMRII and 4,244 doses of Portuguese MMRII were distributed. The labelling of these measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines was consistent with the licensing requirements of the countries for which they were originally destined. Scanned images of the packaging of these products and the packaging of a United Kingdom-licensed product supplied by the same company have been placed in the Library.

Further supplies of the UK-licensed MMR vaccine were received in June 2005.

Nanotechnology: Clothing

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect on public health of the use of nanotubes in clothing materials. [208253]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not made any specific assessment of the effect on public health of the use of nanotubes in clothing materials.

To work properly, nanotubes must be tightly bound within a matrix and are very unlikely to be released as free particles. Exposure to free particles is most likely to take place during manufacture, unless appropriate occupational hygiene measures are taken. The expert advice provided to Government is that public exposure to free nanotubes is negligible.

NHS: Drugs

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's publication Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths - Delivering the Future, Cm 7341, how the new Expert Panel on Health Services Research in Pharmacy will assess the longer term effect of medicines use reviews on compliance with prescribed medicines. [207814]

Dawn Primarolo: Once it has been set up, we expect the Expert Panel on Health Services Research in Pharmacy to consider the longer term impact of medicines use reviews on compliance with prescribed medicines as part of its wider remit to advise on future priorities for health service research in pharmacy.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to his Department's publication Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future, Cm 7341, how the Government plans to make stronger provision for primary care trusts to prioritise medicines use reviews to meet their health priorities locally and to monitor service delivery more effectively; [207815]

(2) with reference to his Department's publication Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future, Cm 7341, how the Government will change the funding structure for medicines use review to ensure that the service delivers to those who will benefit most. [207816]

Dawn Primarolo: We have asked NHS Employers to discuss with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee what mechanisms might be put in place to enable medicines use review services to be prioritised to better meet local health needs and monitored more effectively, as well as how the funding structure can ensure that these services are being delivered to those who might best benefit, while rewarding the health outcomes achieved.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's publication Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future, Cm 7341, how the Government plans to encourage joint working between prescribers and dispensers to increase repeat dispensing. [207817]

Dawn Primarolo: We have asked NHS Employers to convene and lead a working group of pharmacy, medical and public representatives to formulate a series of actions to promote more effective professional relationships and, as part of this, identify and agree mechanisms that can support further incremental implementation of repeat dispensing.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to his Department's publication Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths - Delivering the Future, Cm 7341, what estimate he has made of the cost of supplying alarms and medicines administration charts to patients who would otherwise not take their medicines; [207818]

(2) what discussions on appropriate measures will be carried out with interested parties on the subject of adherence to medicines, as stated in paragraph 3.26 of the Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths - Delivering the Future White Paper, Cm 7341; and if he will make a statement. [207819]

Dawn Primarolo: "Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths - Delivering the Future", Cm 7341, recognises that further work is needed to strengthen the commissioning of services to support patients' adherence to medicines. We will therefore be holding discussions on the most appropriate way forward in partnership with interested parties.

No estimates have been made of the cost of supplying alarms and medicines administration charts to patients to support adherence to medicines.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how pharmacy should take steps to ensure that it develops robust interfaces between other providers of urgent care services such as general practice, community hospitals and out-of-hours service providers, as suggested in the Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths - Delivering the Future White Paper, Cm 7341. [207820]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for primary care trusts, as planners and commissioners of urgent care services, and pharmacy itself to ensure that pharmacy plays a key role in providing integrated urgent care services that best meet the needs and wishes of local communities.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monthly targets his Department expects pharmacists to meet; and if he will make a statement. [207822]

Dawn Primarolo: No monthly targets have been set. Community pharmacy contractors are required to deliver services according to their terms of service under the National Health Service (pharmaceutical services) Regulations 2005 and other relevant legislation. It is for primary care trusts to monitor their performance.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the public expenditure per capita on *(a)* primary care, *(b)* emergency care and *(c)* NHS dental provision in each trust in London was in each year since 1997. [204913]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is available for the years 2000-01 to 2006-07 and copies have been placed in the Library. Information has been provided by previous and current primary care trusts within the London area.

Nurses: Car Allowances

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of the mileage allowance for district nurses. [208813]

Ann Keen: Representations have been made to the NHS Staff Council managed by NHS Employers. The NHS Staff Council is working towards a resolution.

Palliative Care

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is given to NHS hospitals on provision of support to patients who are dying and their families. [202217]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2004, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued guidance on "Improving the provision of supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer". This key document includes specific recommendations about the care provided by all healthcare staff for the dying, including specialist support for those patients and families with complex problems at the end of life. While this guidance is oriented towards cancer, many of the principles and recommendations apply equally to other conditions.

Through the End of Life Care Programme, we have invested £12 million to support the rollout of end of life care tools such as the gold standards framework, the Liverpool Care Pathway and the preferred place of care. By December 2007, 85 per cent. of all national health service hospitals had implemented one or more tools on three or more wards.

The Government are committed to improving care and people's choices at the end of life, regardless of their condition or their location. We are taking this work forward through the development of a national End of Life Care Strategy for adults, this country's first, which is due for publication in the summer. In addition, end of life care is also one of the eight pathways that strategic health authorities have been examining as part of their work on the NHS Next Stage Review.

Polyclinics: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance his Department has made available to primary care trusts in London to develop a polyclinic; and if he will make a statement. [207339]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) in London will receive their share of the £120 million made available from 2009-10 to provide general practitioner-led health centres. The share will be based on the weighted capitation formula which has been reviewed for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT allocations that will be announced this summer.

Prescription Drugs

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were prescribed *(a)* anti-depressants, *(b)* mood stabilisers, *(c)* anti-psychotic drugs, *(d)* major tranquillisers and *(e)* minor tranquillisers in each year from 1990 to 2007. [208324]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on the number of people prescribed medicines.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191082]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the last 24 months the Department has bought 28 plasma television screens at a cost of £36,300. The Department's agencies bought one plasma television screen at a cost of £3,500.

JUSTICE

Children: Protection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many Legal Services Commission family contract holders were undertaking special Children Act proceedings work in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Kent in (i) October 2005, (ii) October 2006 and (iii) October 2007; [204725]

(2) how much the Legal Services Commission spent on special Children Act proceedings in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Kent in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [204727]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not available in the form requested. Information is available by financial year for LSC procurement areas covering similar geographical areas.

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	Number of provider offices	*Expenditure (£ million)*	*Number of provider offices*	*Expenditure (£ million)*	*Number of provider offices*[1]	*Expenditure (£ million)*[2]
Berkshire	30	3.1	25	3.0	29	n/a
Cambridgeshire	35	3.2	33	3.5	29	n/a
Cumbria	35	1.0	34	1.0	33	n/a
Kent	80	4.3	54	4.9	56	n/a

[1] The civil Unified Contract introduced in April 2007 brought all of a provider's offices under one contract and aligned not for profit organisations with solicitor firms. There are currently no not for profit organisations undertaking this work in these four areas.

[2] Final expenditure figures for 2007-08 will not be available until July 2008.

The reductions in the number of contracts held both in civil and criminal law reflects the trend in the last several years of offices doing small amounts of legal aid work to drop out of the market or merge with other offices, so that the work is done in larger volumes at fewer offices. As the LSC continues to pursue higher quality legal services, the number of providers is reducing. Expenditure in Cambridgeshire and Kent has increased since 2005-06 and has been broadly stable in Berkshire and Cumbria.

A provider with a family law contract may have offices in more than one procurement area or more than one office in the same procurement area. Information at this level can be provided only on the basis of individual office location, rather than the location of the provider's head office. Where providers carry out work is not necessarily an indication of where their office is located. The provider office numbers include all those with an active family contract who have done Special Children Act cases in each procurement area.

The spend figures are on the basis of net payments authorised. The figures may include payments to providers who no longer have contracts but were completing ongoing cases or where work has been completed but the financial aspects of it have not yet been reconciled. Where counsel have been instructed by a solicitor, payments made for work done by counsel have been included in the totals for the procurement area where the lead solicitor is based. Payments to barristers may have been made either directly as family graduated fees, or indirectly for bills submitted by the solicitor.

Criminal Proceedings

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions are taking place between the Legal Services Commission, the Bar Council and the Law Society on Very High Cost Case (VHCC) criminal cases in relation to *(a)* the present VHCC contract of April 2008 and *(b)* the next round of VHCC cases; and if he will make a statement. [208650]

Maria Eagle: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, and I have discussed the present Very High Cost Case contract with the Legal Services Commission, the Bar Council and the Law Society on a number of occasions. We have established a working group to make proposals for the next VHCC scheme. Representatives of the Legal Services Commission, the Bar Council, the Law Society, the Crown Prosecution Service and Ministry of Justice officials are members of that group.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to implement the recommendations of the Breaking the Circle report of the review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. [208847]

Mr. Hanson: The Government undertook a review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act in 2002 and published the document 'Breaking the Circle' which set out proposals for reform of the Act. That paper made proposals for modifying disclosure periods for offences, and other changes to the operation of the Act. In 2003 the Government agreed that the proposals had merit and proposed to legislate when parliamentary time allowed. The position is now under review in the light of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which was based on the recommendations of the Bichard report, and which makes changes to the disclosure regime for ex-offenders in many areas of employment.

Open Prisons: Prison Accommodation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the capacity of the open prison estate is; and how many such places were occupied at the most recent date for which figures are available. [206876]

Mr. Straw: As at 30 May 2008 (the latest date for which figures are available), the operational capacity of the open estate[1] was 5,138 and the total population was 4,869. The overall occupancy rate on this date was 95 per cent.

[1] This includes those establishments where the whole prison is designated as open conditions. (Some adult open prisons and women's open prisons have units which hold offenders under the age of 21.).

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Government plans to implement section 20 of the Road Safety Act 2006 regarding the offence of causing death by careless driving; and if he will make a statement. [207715]

Maria Eagle: We intend to implement the section 20 offence of causing death by careless driving together with the Section 21 offence of causing death by driving—unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured—following the publication of sentencing guidelines by the Sentencing Guidelines Council. We anticipate that the guidelines will be published before the summer recess and we are currently considering possible implementation dates.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* criminal prosecutions and *(b)* civil actions were brought by (i) local authorities, (ii) the Crown and (iii) other parties against a person failing to comply with (A) a breach of condition notice under Section 187A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and (B) an enforcement notice under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in each year since 1997; and how many such prosecutions resulted in (1) a criminal conviction and (2) a civil enforcement action. [208693]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of criminal prosecutions and criminal convictions for the offences requested is provided in the following table.

The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Information on the number of civil actions and civil penalties are not held centrally.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 179 and 187a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, England and Wales 1997-2006[1,2]

	Section 179: Non-compliance with enforcement notice		*Section 187A: Failure to comply with "breach of condition notice"*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
1997	465	288	163	84

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 179 and 187a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, England and Wales 1997-2006[1,2]

	Section 179: Non-compliance with enforcement notice		*Section 187A: Failure to comply with "breach of condition notice"*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
1998	462	237	195	108
1999	461	238	242	98
2000	435	234	162	105
2001	378	205	135	90
2002	394	217	112	66
2003	375	202	88	40
2004	424	231	105	66
2005	406	233	108	64
2006	498	283	126	61

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Young Offenders: Prisoners Release

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders sentenced to immediate custody were released early from custody in each of the last five years. [207801]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers of 18 to 20-year-olds who were released under (i) home detention curfew and (ii) after recommendations by the Parole Board from all prison establishments in England and Wales between 2002 and 2006 can be found in the following table:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Early releases under home detention curfew					
Population within eligible sentence length band	8,822	8,688	8,196	7,940	7,802
Released	3,543	3,546	3,127	2,667	2,034
Release rate (Percentage)	40	41	38	34	26
Determinate sentence cases considered by the Parole Board					
Considered	230	200	260	280	300
Released	120	90	120	150	90
Parole rate (Percentage)	52	45	46	54	30

The early release figures under the home detention curfew scheme can be found in table 10.17 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library, and which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Additionally, the end of custody licence scheme was introduced on 29 June 2007 and between then and 30 April there were 3,748 young offenders released under the scheme. This information is available at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-ecl-0408.pdf

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. Data on parole have been rounded to the nearest 10.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 601W, on airguns, how many of the injuries which occurred in each of the last five years were *(a)* serious and *(b)* fatal injuries, broken down by (i) age of the victim, (ii) age of the perpetrator and (iii) police force area. [205820]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Available data, relating to age of the victim and police force area, are shown in the following tables. Information about suspects is not collected centrally.

Table A: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in serious or fatal injury, by age of victim: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		*2003-04*		*2004-05*[2]		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Age of victim[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[4]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[4]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*
Serious injury										
Under 5 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	0	0	0	0
5 and under 11 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	3	1	1	3	2
11 and under 16 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	32	13	28	14	19	7

Table A: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in serious or fatal injury, by age of victim: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		2003-04		2004-05[2]		2005-06		2006-07	
Age of victim[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[4]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[4]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*
16 and under 21 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	33	5	29	9	25	9
21 and under 30 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	7	36	9	15	6
30 and under 50 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31	7	15	3	23	3
50 and under 70 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	1	7	0	5	1
70 years and over	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	2	1	0
Unknown/ not recorded	156	n/a	157	n/a	9	5	3	3	4	1
Total	156	n/a	157	n/a	144	42	119	41	95	29
Fatal injury										
Under 5 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 and under 11 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	1	0	0
11 and under 16 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	1	0	1	0
16 and under 21 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 and under 30 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	0	0	0	0
30 and under 50 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0
50 and under 70 years	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0
70 years and over	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown/ not recorded	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	1	0	3	0

n/a = not available

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[2] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons, introduced on 1 April 2004, may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

[3] The age of victims has been collected only since 1 April 2004.

[4] Data for BB guns/soft air weapons have been separately collected only since 1 April 2004. Prior to that they were included within the 'imitation weapons' total.

Table B: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in serious injury, by police force area: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		2003-04		2004-05[2]		2005-06		2006-07	
Police force area	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*
Avon and Somerset	0	n/a	0	n/a	16	16	5	7	5	1
Bedfordshire	1	n/a	0	n/a	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	1	n/a	0	n/a	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	3	0	0	0	1	0
Cleveland	2	n/a	4	n/a	0	1	1	0	1	0
Cumbria	2	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	1	0	2	0
Derbyshire	3	n/a	1	n/a	3	0	3	1	2	0
Devon and Cornwall	1	n/a	7	n/a	5	0	2	0	4	1
Dorset	2	n/a	0	n/a	2	1	1	0	0	0
Durham	1	n/a	0	n/a	2	0	0	1	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	n/a	1	n/a	0	0	1	0	1	0
Essex	9	n/a	3	n/a	1	0	4	0	1	1

Table B: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in serious injury, by police force area: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		2003-04		2004-05[2]		2005-06		2006-07	
Police force area	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*
Gloucestershire	2	n/a	0	n/a	2	0	0	0	0	1
Gtr. Manchester	7	n/a	15	n/a	13	2	7	2	4	3
Gwent	5	n/a	3	n/a	4	0	0	0	1	0
Hampshire	2	n/a	8	n/a	4	1	6	1	1	0
Hertfordshire	3	n/a	5	n/a	0	0	2	1	1	0
Humberside	7	n/a	3	n/a	0	1	0	0	0	0
Kent	3	n/a	4	n/a	8	1	2	3	4	1
Lancashire	4	n/a	8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	1	n/a	1	n/a	1	1	0	0	5	0
Lincolnshire	3	n/a	1	n/a	1	1	0	1	0	0
London City of	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	12	n/a	12	n/a	10	1	19	0	10	1
Metropolitan	22	n/a	26	n/a	16	2	14	9	14	4
Norfolk	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	1	0	1	2	0
North Wales	4	n/a	3	n/a	0	0	4	3	2	1
North Yorkshire	1	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	1	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	4	n/a	0	n/a	0	1	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	4	n/a	5	n/a	1	1	4	1	4	0
Nottinghamshire	2	n/a	0	n/a	4	0	2	0	1	0
South Wales	2	n/a	5	n/a	5	4	6	0	2	0
South Yorkshire	11	n/a	6	n/a	9	1	6	0	3	0
Staffordshire	6	n/a	4	n/a	4	1	1	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	n/a	2	n/a	0	0	1	0	0	0
Surrey	1	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sussex	1	n/a	0	n/a	1	0	1	0	1	0
Thames Valley	7	n/a	2	n/a	8	0	4		6	2
Warwickshire	2	n/a	3	n/a	1	0	1	0	0	0
West Mercia	2	n/a	1	n/a	0	0	2	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	n/a	13	n/a	9	4	11	4	9	12
West Yorkshire	16	n/a	11	n/a	7	1	6	1	4	1
Wiltshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	0	1	1	2	0
Total	156	n/a	157	n/a	144	42	119	41	95	29

n/a = not available.

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[2] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons, introduced on 1 April 2004, may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

[3] Data for BB guns/soft air weapons have been separately collected only since 1 April 2004. Prior to that they were included within the 'imitation weapons' total.

Table C: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in fatal injury, by police force area: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		2003-04		2004-05[2]		2005-06		2006-07	
Police force area	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*[3]	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*
Avon and Somerset	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gtr. Manchester	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	1	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0

Table C: Offences involving air weapons and BB guns/soft air weapons resulting in fatal injury, by police force area: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03[1]		2003-04		2004-05[2]		2005-06		2006-07	
Police force area	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons[3]*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons[3]*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*	*Air weapons*	*BB guns/soft air weapons*
Kent	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
London City of	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0
Norfolk	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	1	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	n/a	0	n/a	1	0	1	0	3	0

n/a = not available.

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[2] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons, introduced on 1 April 2004, may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

[3] Data for BB guns/soft air weapons have been separately collected only since 1 April 2004. Prior to that they were included within the 'imitation weapons' total.

Alcohol Disorder Zones

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government expects the first alcohol disorder zone to be implemented. [192829]

Jacqui Smith: The regulations in respect of alcohol disorder zones (ADZs) have passed through both Houses of Parliament and we expect that they will be commenced in June 2008. It is a matter for local authorities and the police to decide if and when an ADZ is implemented.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities have submitted an application to establish an alcohol disorder zone. [198637]

Jacqui Smith: None. Alcohol disorder zones have not yet been commenced. They have passed through both Houses of Parliament, and we expect that they will be commenced in June 2008.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons data on antisocial behaviour orders for 2006 have not been published; and if she will make a statement. [204408]

Jacqui Smith: Data on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) up to 31 December 2006 were published on 8 May. Copies of the data are available at the House of Commons Library and on the Crime Reduction website.

Crime: Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions the Government have had with local authorities and police forces on tackling crime against businesses. [208860]

Mr. Coaker: The Government's crime strategy for 2008-11, published in July 2007, encourages local authorities and police to work more closely with businesses in tackling local problems of crime and disorder.

The crime strategy gives local partners more flexibility to respond to the crime and antisocial behaviour that matters to the public in their areas, with fewer types of crime being mandated as priorities from the centre.

Public Service Agreement 23 "Make Communities Safer" raises the profile of business crime, to encourage CDRPs to consult and engage with the business community. Publication of "Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working" in September 2007 for CDRP partners, includes good practice examples of partnerships working with the business community.

Neighbourhood policing has been introduced across England and Wales to deal with low-level crime and antisocial behaviour. In some communities this will include, for example, police community support officers working in partnership with local businesses. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is working to produce a guidance document for police forces on how to engage with local businesses.

Crime: Small Businesses

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce the incidence of crime against small businesses. [208859]

Mr. Coaker: Between 2004 and 2007 the Home Office provided more than £1 million of funding to the Action Against Business Crime group (AABC) to set up 120 business crime reduction partnerships in towns and cities across England and Wales. It also, in partnership with stakeholders, produced a booklet to enable businesses to undertake a crime prevention survey of their premises. More than 200,000 copies of this booklet have so far been printed and distributed.

The Home Office has also provided funding to the Perpetuity Group to develop a tool for small and medium-sized retailers to design out crime in their stores and reduce the opportunities for shop thieves to operate. In addition to this, we have provided funding to the Nottinghamshire Business Crime Initiative to develop a model for reducing crime against small and medium-sized businesses on industrial estates and parks.

The Government are working in partnership with retail organisations to tackle retail crime. As part of this work we have set up a National Retail Crime Steering Group to provide a forum to discuss and devise strategies for tackling crimes of concern to retailers.

We are committed to raising the profile of crimes against all businesses, making provisions for better information about them and producing guidance to support local partnerships in their efforts to tackle the crimes which affect them.

Crime: Statistics

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records of offences *(a)* in total, *(b)* of violence against the person, *(c)* sexual offences, *(d)* of robbery, *(e)* of burglary, *(f)* of theft of a vehicle and *(g)* of theft from a vehicle recorded by the police in 2002-03 can be attributed to the effect of the National Crime Recording Standard. [202897]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* An online report entitled "National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS): an analysis of the impact on recorded crime", published in July 2003, evaluated the impact of NCRS on recorded crime figures. The report stated that the national picture for total crime (2001-02: 5,525,024; 2002-03: 5,974,960) demonstrated an overall NCRS impact of 10 per cent. on the recorded crime statistics for 2002-03.

Estimates of the percentage impact of the NCRS on recorded crime in 2002-03 varied considerably between offence types:

Violence against the person: 23 per cent. impact
(2001-02: 650,326; 2002-03: 845,078)
Robbery: 3 per cent. impact
(2001/02: 121,359; 2002/03: 110,271)
Burglary: 3 per cent. impact
(2001-02: 878,509; 2002-03: 890,099)

Equivalent estimates of the impact of the NCRS on sexual offences, theft of a vehicle and theft from a vehicle recorded are unavailable.

It is thought that there was some continuing impact of the NCRS on the number of recorded crimes in the three-year period following its introduction as a result of audits to further improve recording.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of crime recorded by the police in *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06 and *(e)* 2006-07 would not have been counted prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. [202898]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* An online report entitled "National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS): an analysis of the impact on recorded crime", published in July 2003, evaluated the impact of NCRS on record crime figures. The report stated that the national picture demonstrated an overall NCRS impact of 10 per cent. on the recorded crime statistics for 2002-03. The total recorded crime figure was 5,525,024 in 2001-02 and 5,974,960 in 2002-03.

This analysis of the impact of the NCRS on recorded crime has not been replicated since it was originally carried out in 2003 so equivalent estimates are unavailable for 2003-04 through to 2006-07. It is, however, thought that there was some continuing impact of the NCRS on the number of recorded crimes in the three year period following its introduction as a result of audits to further improve recording.

Criminal Records: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of records held by the Criminal Records Bureau she estimates contain incorrect information, broken down by police force area. [205115]

Jacqui Smith: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is not the data owner of the records that it searches. These records are held, owned and maintained by the police service, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health. The CRB is not responsible for the accuracy of the information these records contain.

Domestic Violence

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which domestic violence *(a)* projects and *(b)* organisations for (i) perpetrators and (ii) victims of domestic violence are being funded by her Department in 2008-09. [208434]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has allocated funding to support a range of domestic violence projects and organisations during 2008-09. Details of these organisations are outlined in the following table.

Domestic violence funding, 2008-09: Projects and organisations

Projects	*Organisations*	*Allocation (£)*
Perpetrators		
Accredited community perpetrator programme	Respect	[1]120,000
Perpetrator helpline	Respect	[1]—
Victims		
National Domestic Violence Helpline	Women's Aid and Refuge	500,000
Men's advice line for male victims of domestic violence	Respect	120,000
Domestic violence helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people	Broken Rainbow	120,000
Helpline database development for victims of domestic violence from black and minority ethnic communities	Southall Black Sisters	20,000
Honour Network—helpline for survivors of forced marriage	Karma Nirvana	15,000
Men's coalition development work	Men's Health Forum	50,000
Training for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences	Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse	800,000
Total		1,745,000

Drugs: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the drug interdictions set out in the Serious Organised Crime Agency Annual Report 2007-08 were the result of UK-based operations. [207018]

Jacqui Smith: Serious Organised Crime Agency operations are carried out both in the UK and overseas. Since lead intelligence may be obtained both at home and abroad, it is not possible to indicate what proportion of 2007-08 drug seizures were the result of solely UK-based operations.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the drug interdictions listed in the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) Annual Report 2007-08 were seized directly by SOCA officers, rather than its partners. [207019]

Jacqui Smith: The Serious Organised Crime Agency has no powers to seize drugs outside the UK. Interdictions overseas referred to in its Annual Report, therefore, involved SOCA providing key intelligence and/or operational support, not undertaking the physical act of seizure. At home, SOCA works collaboratively with UK police forces and with HMRC and the UK Border Agency. Decisions on the interdiction phases of such joint operational activity are made according to local or operational imperatives, including to protect the use of sensitive intelligence sources. In all the seizures reported, SOCA was involved from the start, whether or not it carried out the actual seizure itself.

Drugs: Fines

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fines issued for the unlawful possession of drugs were for *(a)* £50 or less, *(b)* £51 to £100, *(c)* £101 to £500 and *(d)* £500 or more in each of the last 10 years. [200526]

Jacqui Smith: The number of fines issued for unlawful possession of drugs, in each of the last 10 years, in the four categories described are outlined in the following table.

Offenders fined for drugs offences[1, 2] at all courts

	£101 to £500	*£51 to £100*	*less than £50*	*over £500*	*Grand total*
1996	3,520	3,246	1,830	5,531	14,127
1997	3,624	4,863	2,206	6,566	17,259
1998	4,061	6,920	3,043	8,155	22,179
1999	3,942	6,889	3,284	8,067	22,182
2000	3,669	5,648	2,989	7,583	19,889
2001	3,337	3,940	3,476	8,710	19,463
2002	3,269	3,732	4,412	9,543	20,956
2003	3,279	4,019	4,263	10,062	21,623
2004	2,608	2,091	2,544	6,068	13,311
2005	2,859	2,120	2,113	5,861	12,953
2006	3,129	2,156	1,639	5,798	12,722

[1] Principal offence.
[2] Having possession of a controlled drug and having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply.

Firearms

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2678W, on firearm seizures, if she will provide the number of seizures for 2007-08 following the publication of the Serious Organised Crime Agency's Annual Report. [207039]

Jacqui Smith: As set out in its Annual Report for 2007-08, the Serious Organised Crime Agency was involved in the seizure of over 400 firearms and over 23,000 rounds of ammunition.

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many prosecutions DNA samples on the national DNA database from people with no previous convictions have been used. [191176]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of prosecutions in which DNA subject sample profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) taken from persons with no previous convictions have been used in evidence is not available from the NDNAD, nor is it available from police force data collected by the Home Office on forensic activity and related detections. The NDNAD holds DNA profiles taken from persons arrested for a recordable offence but does not hold data on their criminal histories; this information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC).

Some research information is, however, available on the number of DNA profiles taken from those arrested but not charged and from those arrested, charged but not convicted of an offence that have resulted in a DNA match, thus providing the police with an intelligence link on the possible identity of the offender and assisting in the detection of crimes. In April 2004, an amendment to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 came into effect which enabled the police to take and retain DNA and fingerprints from persons who had been arrested for a recordable offence. In the period April 2004 to December 2005, the retention of DNA profiles of arrested persons who had not been charged or proceeded against had resulted in matches with crime scene profiles from over 3,000 offences.

In May 2001, an amendment to PACE 1984 came into effect which enabled the police to retain DNA samples taken from persons who had been charged but not convicted of an offence. In the period May 2001 to December 2005, an estimated 200,000 DNA samples taken from people charged with offences had been retained on the National DNA Database, which would previously have had to be removed because of the absence of a conviction. From these, approximately 8,500 profiles of individuals have been linked with crime scene profiles, involving nearly 14,000 offences.

Human Trafficking

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1733W, on human trafficking, for what offences the 86 convictions were made; and how many of the convictions led to *(a)* a custodial sentence of more than one year, *(b)* a custodial sentence of less than one year, *(c)* a community sentence and *(d)* a fine. [207038]

Jacqui Smith: Since the answer of 18 May when an interrogation of the police national computer (PNC) as of 12 May found there had been a total of 86 convictions for human trafficking since the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, further investigations have found that two of the cases had incorrect data recorded on the PNC. The total number of convictions as of 12 May is therefore 84 not 86. Sentencing figures from the PNC break these down to show:

	Number
Sentences of one year or more	75
Sentence of less than one year	1
Suspended sentences	4
Awaiting sentence	4
Total:	84

Immigration: Organised Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 758W, on organised immigration crime, if she will provide full figures for 2007-08 following the publication of the Serious Organised Crime Agency's Annual Report. [207040]

Jacqui Smith: Between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, there were 129 arrests and 30 convictions as a result of operations where organised immigration crime, including people smuggling and human trafficking, was the main threat.

Police: Information and Communications Technology

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT software is *(a)* recommended by her Department and *(b)* used by police forces in their enforcement of licensing laws. [200969]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The Home Department has not recommended the use of a specific IT software application for the enforcement of licensing laws and the use of IT software for this purpose will be a matter for individual forces to determine.

Proceeds of Crime

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* interim receiving orders, *(b)* property freezing orders, *(c)* Mareva injunctions and *(d)* freezing orders were granted under or ancillary to proceedings under Part 5 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Northern Ireland in each year of the Assets Recovery Agency's existence. [206956]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Assets Recovery Agency

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	Total	*NI*	*Total*	*NI*	*Total*	*NI*	*Total*	*NI*	*Total*	*NI*
Interim Receiving Order	12	2	20	8	25	15	7	5	1	1
Mareva Injunction/Freezing Order	12	3	6	0	14	1	2	0	0	0
Property Freezing Order	—	—	—	—	6	1	48	7	22	4

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding applications for recovery orders under Part 5 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 were inherited in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Northern Ireland by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency following the abolition of the Assets Recovery Agency. [206977]

Mr. Coaker: The Serious Organised Crime Agency inherited from the Assets Recovery Agency 30 issued claims in civil recovery in England and Wales and eight in Northern Ireland.

Security Guards: Licensing

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of applications to the Security Industry Authority for licences were completed within the six to eight weeks processing target time in the latest period for which figures are available; [202655]

(2) how many applications to the Security Industry Authority for *(a)* licences and *(b)* licence renewals have been delayed in processing as a result of the introduction of a new computer system and still await determination; and if she will make a statement; [202654]

(3) how many stuck applications are in the Security Industry Authority licensing system; what steps are being taken to expedite the processing of these applications through the system; and when she expects them to have been dealt with. [202857]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* As a result of a delay in implementing the full functionality of the SIA's new processing system, some of this management information is not currently available. The SIA advise that data relating to the first quarter of this financial year will be available in August. I will write to the right hon. Member with this information when it is available.

As at 13 May there were 346 cases at various stages of processing which were unable to progress further as a result of problems with the managed service provider system. The SIA are in contact with the individuals concerned as the majority of these cases require information to be re-submitted which is currently missing from the system.

Most other cases are moving systematically, albeit more slowly than normal, through the process. The SIA is committed to doing all it can to return the process to normal levels and speed any 'stuck' cases that come to light through to completion.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Security Industry Authority (SIA) are taking to (i) protect those employees whose jobs have been jeopardised and (ii) compensate those employees who lose their jobs as a result of delays in SIA licence application processing. [202656]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* This is an operational matter for the SIA. They are working to restore performance to acceptable levels as quickly as possible in order to reduce delays and the resulting impact on applicants. If individuals have suffered financial loss as a direct result of processing delays, the SIA will consider compensation claims on a case by case basis.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for *(a)* licences and *(b)* licence renewals were received by the Security Industry Authority in each year since 2003. [202657]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* Licence renewals are not recorded separately to new applications. Details of application numbers are available in the SIA's annual reports from 2003-04 to 2006-07. Copies can be viewed on the SIA's website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/about_sia/publications/publications_financial.htm

Details are set out in the following table. Copies are also available in the House of Commons Library.

The figures for 2007-08 are not yet available, but will be published in the SIA's Annual report 2007-08 later this year.

	Licence applications received
2003-4	6
2004-5	24,402
2005-6	99,475
2006-7	102,495

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Security Industry Authority lost the personal details of applicants in each year since 2003. [202906]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* Information on the numbers of incidents is not available, although the SIA have informed us that they are aware that there have been some incidents in the past where documents have gone missing in the postal system, which have been dealt with on a case by case basis.

The SIA take the safeguarding of applicants' personal details and documents very seriously, and various procedures have been implemented to reduce the occurrence of personal details being lost. These include all documents that are received by the SIA being handled in a secure area.

To minimise the risk that documents may be lost or re-directed when being returned to applicants, the SIA have introduced a courier system which delivers all documentation direct to the address provided by the applicant.

Security Industry Authority: Manpower

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* contact staff, *(b)* processing staff, *(c)* temporary staff and *(d)* staff in total were employed by the Security Industry Authority in each month since January 2003. [202850]

Jacqui Smith: Call centre contact staff and general processing staff are not directly employed by the SIA. Employee details are published each year in the SIA's annual report. The reports for 2003-04 to 2006-07 can be viewed on the SIA's website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/about_sia/publications/publications_financial.htm

Copies are also available in the House of Commons Library.

Details of the position at the end of the last two financial years are set out in the following table.

	31 March	
	2007	*2008*
Permanent staff	90	113
Seconded staff	5	4
Temporary staff	23	30
Total	118	147
Consultants	4	1

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations are employed by his Department in Helmand Province; and what type of project each is carrying out. [208807]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has entered in to one contract with an non-governmental organisation for a development project in Helmand. The NGO, which would prefer to remain nameless for security reasons, received a grant of £999,447 to support an agricultural development programme which began in August 2007. In addition, DFID funding is supporting, through the Government of Afghanistan, the Bangladeshi NGO, BRAG, to undertake community development and microfinance projects in Helmand, and the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) to establish credit unions.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's personnel are based in Helmand Province; and what their budget for 2008-09 is. [208808]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Department for International Development (DFID) staff are currently located in Helmand. For security reasons, DFID does not publish exact details on the number and location of its staff in Afghanistan. The current total unit cost of a single member of staff is around £250,000, incorporating salary and hardship allowances, with the majority accounting for the costs of providing adequate security.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding was allocated by his Department to Helmand Province in each of the last five years. [207461]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

In 2006-07 DFID spent £15.1 million.

In 2007-08 DFID spent £8.1 million.

In 2008-09 DFID intends to spend up to £31.14 million.

There was no Helmand spend prior to these figures.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department plans to provide to Burma in each year from 2008 until 2011. [207664]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) plans to spend £12 million in Burma in 2008-09, rising to £15 million in 2009-10 and £18 million in 2010-11. This allocation is additional to the £27.5 million we have committed to emergency relief in Burma following Cyclone Nargis.

Burma: Storms

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to cross-border groups which have been providing humanitarian assistance in Burma since Cyclone Nargis. [207663]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has so far pledged £27.5 million towards the humanitarian effort following Cyclone Nargis. This assistance is being channelled through the United Nations, the Red Cross and NGOs with the greatest capacity to operate effectively in the areas of Burma worst hit by the cyclone. We have no plans at present to channel funds through cross-border groups based in neighbouring countries.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which supplier or chain of suppliers is to provide the supply of 20 million bed nets recently announced by the Prime Minister; and on what criteria the supply contract will be awarded. [207617]

Gillian Merron: The responsibility for the procurement of the bed nets rests with individual Department for International Development (DFID) country programmes. They will select the preferred supplier on the basis of DFID's standard procurement processes, in compliance with the European Union Public Procurement Directives. Contracts will be awarded to those bidders that offer the most economically advantageous tenders to DFID, taking account of technical and commercial considerations.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what arrangements have been made for the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* distribution of the 20 million bed nets recently announced by the Prime Minister; and in how many stages the nets will be delivered; [207634]

(2) pursuant to the announcement of 20 million bed nets by the Prime Minister, what provision has been made for programmes of training in the *(a)* installation, *(b)* proofing and *(c)* use of the nets; and how much has been allocated for such training; [207638]

(3) what mechanisms he has established to assess the effectiveness of the programme to provide 20 million bed nets; [207639]

(4) what steps he plans to take to *(a)* ensure and *(b)* monitor the consistency of use of the 20 million bed nets recently announced by the Prime Minister. [207635]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) will work with a range of partners to ensure the bed nets are distributed and delivered effectively. We will work to support the strengthening of recipient government systems for this purpose.

Detailed arrangements for procurement and delivery, including training, will be made in-country by DFID's country programmes. Installation will be part of the accompanying education package offered as part of the delivery support. The anticipated unit cost includes up to £2 per net to meet the cost of programme administration, distribution and education. The bed nets will be long-lasting insecticide treated (ITNs) and will be procured annually over the period 2008-2010. Purchase of the bed nets will comply with DFID's robust procurement practices.

The level of demand in each country has already been established. DFID will monitor bed net usage patterns and practices through standard health management information systems and multi-partner demographic and health surveys including household interview and net tracking surveys. A structured evaluation of the programme and the lessons learnt from it will take place in 2011.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adults he expects to participate in *(a)* adult Level 2 apprenticeships, *(b)* adult Level 3 advanced apprenticeships and *(c)* higher education apprenticeships in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [208111]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested about apprenticeships starts in England is provided in the following table. Information about apprenticeships at level 4 is not separately available. These figures are planning assumptions, and we will endeavour to find resources to meet demand above these levels.

Projected adult[1] apprenticeship starts by level

	2007/08	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Level 2 apprenticeships	46,000	52,000	56,000	51,000
Level 3 and 4 Apprenticeships[2]	31,000	35,000	39,000	34,000
Total	77,000	87,000	95,000	85,000

[1] Adult is defined as aged 19 and over.

[2] Includes a small number (less than 100) of level 4 (higher education) apprenticeships.

Source:

Modelling data based on individualised learner record.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207489]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was formed as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007 by transferring staff from the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The staff transferred on their existing contractual terms and conditions of employment. Both Departments previously paid performance related bonuses to reward high performance—where, typically, personal objectives have been consistently exceeded.

Pending the introduction of shared service arrangements, information about payments to all DIUS staff continues to be retained on the HR databases of the Departments from which the staff were transferred. Compiling the bonus information required for reply it would be necessary to search these separate databases and this involves disproportionate cost.

Bonuses for the performance year 2007/08, paid to senior civil servants currently working within DIUS, will have been paid by their former Department and will have been disclosed by those Departments in their response to this question.

As regards the Department's agencies NWML and UKIPO, the end-of-year performance bonuses paid to staff in the 2007-08 financial year were as follows:

1. 1,461 payments were made to staff, totalling £325,500;
2. Seven payments were made to staff at senior civil service level, totalling £19,900.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208142]

Mr. Lammy: Catering services, alongside accommodation and facilities management services, are provided to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills by the Departments of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and Children, Schools and Families. Answers given on behalf of those Departments will therefore cover this Department as well.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the higher education initial participation rate for English-domiciled first-time participants in higher education courses in each parliamentary constituency was by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age and *(c)* socioeconomic group in each of the last 10 years. [208354]

Bill Rammell: The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh Further Education Colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figures, including a gender breakdown, are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-30 year olds

	Male	*Female*	*All*
1999/2000	37 (37.1)	41 (41.4)	39 (39.2)
2000/01	37 (36.8)	43 (42.8)	40 (39.6)
2001/02	36 (36.5)	44 (44.1)	40 (40.2)
2002/03	37 (36.9)	46 (45.6)	41 (41.1)
2003/04	35 (35.3)	45 (45.3)	40 (40.2)
2004/05	35 (35.4)	45 (45.0)	40 (40.1)
2005/06	37 (37.4)	48 (47.8)	42 (42.5)
2006/07	35 (34.8)	45 (44.9)	40 (39.8)

Note:
The HEIPR is usually published to the nearest integer, but the figures are included to one decimal place to inform comparisons over time. Numbers are quoted to the nearest thousand.
Source:
"Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/20.00-2006/07 (Provisional)", published by DfES.

The HEIPR for individual ages from 17 to 30 is shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate by gender and age

Age	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*Percentage 2006/07*
17	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
18	19.3	19.5	19.6	19.7	19.2	19.4	21.3	20.2
19	9.3	9.7	10.0	9.9	9.7	9.4	9.7	8.6
20	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5
21	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
22	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
23	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
24	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8
25	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
26	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
27	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
28	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
29	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
30	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Total	39.2	39.6	40.2	41.1	40.2	40.1	42.5	39.8

Note:
The HEIPR is usually published to the nearest integer, but the figures are included to one decimal place to inform comparisons over time. Numbers are quoted to the nearest thousand.
Source:
"Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/2000 - 2006/07 (Provisional)", published by DfES.

The HEIPR is not available for earlier years than 1999/2000. The HEIPR is not available below country level, therefore figures are not available by parliamentary constituency.

The HEIPR is not available broken down by socio-economic class, due to differences in the information on which socio-economic class is based across the age range. As such, only the full-time young (18-20) component of the HEIPR is available by socio-economic class. Table 3 shows the following:

1. The proportion of 18-20 year olds from the top three socio-economic classes who participate for the first time in full-time higher education;

2. The proportion of 18-20 year olds from the bottom four socio-economic classes who participate for the first time in full-time higher education;

3. The difference, or "gap" between these two rates.

Full-time Young Participation by Socio-Economic Class (FYPSEC)

Academic year	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*Percentage 2005*
Percentage from NS-SECs 1, 2 and 3	44.6	41.5	41.5	43.3
Percentage from NS-SECs 4, 5, 6 and 7	17.6	17.9	17.7	19.9
Difference	27.0	23.6	23.8	23.4

The figures cover English-domiciled 18-20 year olds who are studying for the first time at higher education level at UK higher education institutions or English further education colleges, who remain on their courses for at least six months.

Due to a change from social class to socio-economic class in 2001, earlier comparable figures are not available. The 2006/07 figures will become available later this year.

The Government remains committed to widening participation in higher education, it is an economic as well as a social imperative that everyone who can benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so. Widening participation is about spotting and nurturing talent, with schools, colleges and universities working together to ensure that all those with the potential and merit to benefit from higher education are able to do so.

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget for tuition funding was allocated to *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time higher education students in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what proportion will be allocated to each category in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11. [208151]

Bill Rammell: In both 2006-07 and 2007-08 about 82 per cent. of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget to support tuition was allocated for full-time students and about 18 per cent. was allocated for part-time students. The underlying full-time proportion will rise to about 83 per cent. in 2008-09. The exact proportions for future years will depend on student demand and the responses of institutions to that demand although it is our policy that public funding for higher education should generally be fairly stable and predictable. In all cases, grant is unhypothecated with institutions free to decide for themselves how to organise and fund tuition for their students.

Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the criteria were for the selection of members to the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property; and what plans he has to make further appointments. [207962]

Ian Pearson: The published selection criteria were: interest in and awareness of IP; commitment to SABIP's work; demonstrable strategic vision; ability to make a significant contribution to SABIP's overall performance and direction; well developed interpersonal skills with the ability to constructively challenge accepted views; outstanding integrity; and demonstrated achievement and standing in the candidate's field.

The Secretary of State has no immediate plans to make further appointments.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people are making repayments on student loans. [199421]

Bill Rammell: The Statistical First Release published by the Student Loans Company in June 2007 showed that in March 2007 there were 253,000 English domiciled income-contingent loan borrowers making repayments, according to the latest tax year returns from HM Revenue and Customs. There were more than 154,000 mortgage-style borrowers ahead or up to date with repayments. In addition a number of mortgage-style borrowers classed as in arrears may have made repayments that did not bring their accounts up to date.

Teachers: Sign Language

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether British Sign Language teachers who do not hold Lifelong Learning UK's new minimum core requirements for teachers in further education will be able to continue teaching. [208120]

Bill Rammell: FE teachers will be able to continue teaching if they have not met the requirements of the minimum core. However, specific conditions may apply, depending on when the teacher was recruited and whether the "Further Education Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulation (2007) No 2664" apply.

The minimum core provides a benchmark standard for levels of literacy, language, numeracy and ICT for teachers in the FE sector, and is similar to requirements for teaching in schools. This standard ensures that teachers have the basic skills required for effective pedagogy and, where appropriate, to support learners "Skills for Life" needs. Set at Level 2 (GCSE equivalent level), the core is intended to be applied to all teachers new to the FE sector as part of their initial training and development. Evidence of Level 2 personal skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT will also be a condition to achieve licensed practitioner status with the Institute for Learning for new and existing teachers.

Lifelong Learning UK are planning a review of the minimum core requirements for FE teachers to address concerns raised about British Sign Language (BSL) and learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Planning for the introduction of assessment and evidencing of teachers' literacy and numeracy personal skills in September 2008, as a requirement to gain licensed practitioner status with the Institute for Learning, is also taking account of these concerns.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact on British Sign Language teachers of Lifelong Learning UK's new minimum core requirements for further education teachers. [208153]

Bill Rammell: The minimum core is a long-standing policy, which has been extensively consulted on and reviewed during the last five years, particularly during development of the FE teaching reforms, which were launched in September 2007.

Following extensive sector consultation by the Further Education National Training Organisation (FENTO), the core became a key component of the FE workforce reforms that were first announced in "Equipping our Teachers for the Future (DfES, 2004)". Since 2005 it has been the requirement that endorsed initial teacher training (ITT) courses support development of FE teacher trainees' minimum core pedagogic skills within their courses. The Department expects ITT providers to contextualise courses appropriately for their learners—including British Sign Language teachers—and make reasonable adjustments for any learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The minimum core was revised in 2007 by the Sector Skills Council for FE staff—Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK)—which succeeded FENTO. This ensured alignment with new LLUK teacher standards and the new mandatory teacher qualifications for the FE sector, which were introduced through regulations that came into force on 1 September 2007.

LLUK is planning a further review of the minimum core requirements for FE teachers, including the impact on specialist such as British Sign Language teachers, and will work with partner organisations in the sector during the process. The Department and LLUK are committed to ensuring that teachers are trained to a standard that all learners deserve.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to increase the number of qualified British Sign Language teachers and interpreters. [208155]

Bill Rammell: The Department recognises the need to ensure the workforce supporting learners is sufficient and capable to support learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, the Government are not the employer of British Sign Language professionals. FE colleges were established as independent organisations following the enactment of the Further and Higher Education Act in 1992. As such, they are responsible for their own HR arrangements, including the recruitment and deployment of staff. Wider FE providers are generally independent organisations, similarly responsible for their own HR arrangements. We expect all FE learning providers to recruit and organise their workforce to meet local circumstances and learner and business needs.

However, in its strategy for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, "Learning for Living and Work (2006)", the Learning and Skills Council has stated that it is of prime importance to address workforce development. Importantly, the strategy has identified where gaps in specialist support occur and LSC is now working with Lifelong Learning UK—as the sector skills council covering FE teachers and support staff—to address these gaps. Detailed plans are still under consideration. A progress report on "Learning for Living and Work" will be published in the summer.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much his Department has spent on the ministerial residences in Admiralty House since they became vacant; and for what purpose in each case; [194997]

(2) what expenditure the Cabinet Office has incurred, and for what purpose, in relation to the Ministerial flat in Admiralty House formerly occupied by the right hon. Member of Ashfield since he vacated the property on 30 June 2006. [199269]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office is responsible for meeting council tax charges on the two unoccupied flats. No additional money has been spent.

Central Office of Information: Advertising

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* name, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose was of each advertising campaign carried out by the Central Office of Information in the most recent year for which information is available. [202364]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* COI commissions advertising campaigns for Government Departments and agencies to help them communicate their policies and achieve their objectives.

The most recent year for which information is fully available is 2006-07; information for 2007-08 will not be available until the COI's report and accounts is published in July 2008.

The following table lists the campaigns undertaken by COI on its clients' behalf during the year:

Client	*Campaign title*	*Cost*
ACAS	ACAS Miscellaneous Advertising Activity 2006-07	228,950
Army	Army/TA Recruitment Advertising 2006-07	7,960,140
Army	Army/TA Recruitment Advertising 2006-07	1,026,423
Cancer Research UK	Cancer Research UK 2006-07	2,184,645
Civil Justice Council	Civil Justice Council Classified Advertising 2006-07	8,434
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health	CPPIH Classified Advertising 2006-07	5,101
Commission for Racial Equality	Commission for Racial Equality Classified Advertising 2006-07	2,734
Communities and Local Government	DCLG Campaigns 2006-07	5,227,293
Constitutional Affairs	DCA Classified Advertising 2006-07	10,743
Constitutional Affairs	Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Classified Advertising 2006-07	19,774
Construction Industry Training Board	CITB—DRM Media 2006-07	307,878
Culture, Media and Sport	DCMS 2006-07	8,233
Culture, Media and Sport	DCMS Classified Advertising 2006-07	211,286
Culture, Media and Sport	DCMS Tourism Consultation 2006-07	2,888

Client	*Campaign title*	*Cost*
Disability Rights Commission	DRC—Disability Awareness Raising 2006-07	248,986
DVLA	DVLA Continuous Registration 2006-07	4,990,291
Education and Skills	Student Finance 2006-07	2,476,295
Education and Skills	Teenage Pregnancy 2006-07	1,533,980
Education and Skills	DFES Classified Advertising 2006-07	62,995
Education and Skills	Children and Young People's Workforce Insert 2006-07	45,123
Education and Skills	Adult Basic Skills 2006-07	1,805,199
Education and Skills	Childcare Recruitment 2006-07	404,664
Electoral Commission	Electoral Commission Local Election Vote Phase 2006-07	1,233,145
Electoral Commission	Electoral Commission 2006-07	1,176,739
Electoral Commission	Vote Scotland 2006-07	456,506
Energy Saving Trust	EST Save Your 20 per cent. 2006-07	1,968,196
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	DEFRA Illegal Meats Ethnic 2006-07	37,890
FCO	FCO Classified Advertising 2006-07	1,901
Financial Services Authority	Financial Services Authority 2006-07	1,112,859
Food Standards Agency	FSA—BBQ Safety 2006-07	943,652
Food Standards Agency	Food Standards Agency—Salt 2006-07	2,622,637
Food Standards Agency	Food Standards Agency Classified Advertising 2006-07	50,369
Food Standards Agency	Scores on the Doors Media 2006-07	9,407
Food Standards Agency	FSA Scotland Press Ads 2006-07	508
Food Standards Agency	FSA Signposting 2006-07	1,884,392
Health	DoH Directories Advertising 2006-07	61,972
Health	Department of Health Classified Advertising 2006-07	74,040
Health	Child Immunisation 2006-07	1,660,586
Health	Smoking—Motivations that Matter 2006-07	2,794,919
Health	Health and Social Care Awards 2006-07	36,032
Health	Social Work Recruitment—autumn 2006-07	716,918
Health	Flu Immunisation 2006-07	1,107,207
Health	Sexual Health/Teenage Pregnancy 2006-07	2,654,755
Health	Healthy Start 2006-07	10,892
Health	Social Care Recruitment 2006-07	1,589,051
Health	NHS Direct Interactive on Digital TV 2006-07	286,432
Health	Tobacco Control Campaign—Hook 2006-07	3,977,096
Health	Tobacco—Support 2006-07	2,232,825
Health	Tobacco—Second Hand Smoke 2006-07	3,237,752
Health	Hep C Awareness 2006-07	516,430
Health	DoH Choice Campaign 2006-07	22,245
Health	NHSBSA Help with Health Costs 2006-07	69,026
Health	Tobacco Smokefree 2007-08	237,678
Health and Safety Executive	Falls from Height 2006-07	813,298
Health and Safety Executive	HSE Asbestos 2006-07	48,426
Health and Safety Executive	HSE Workplace Health 2006-07	90,414
Health and Safety Executive	HSE Backs 2006-07	1,597,220
Health and Safety Executive	HSE Recruitment Advertising 2006-07	78,715
Health and Safety Executive	HSE Miscellaneous 2006-07	5,871
Health and Safety Executive	HSE Dermatitis Campaign 2006-07	39,020
Health and Safety Executive	HSE Telegraph Business Club 2006-07	56,843
Health and Safety Executive	Respiratory Disease Briefs 2006-07	9,424
HM Court Service	Operation Payback 4 2006-07	20,837
Home Office	Rape 2006-07	280,022
Home Office	Single Non Emergency Number 2006-07	780,325
Home Office	Acquisitive Crime Reduction 2006-07	3,266,192
Home Office	Domestic Violence 200607	800,384
Home Office	Home Office Classified Advertising 2006-07	22,004
Home Office	Police Community Support Officers 2006-07	1,748,743
Home Office	AMEC 2006-07	231,713
Home Office	Knife Amnesty 2006-07	137,083
Home Office	Home Office Stop and Search 2006-07	134,501
Home Office	Alcohol 2006-07	1,975,005
Home Office	Child Protection on the Internet 2006-07	46,824
Home Office	Immigration 2006-07	790,860
Home Office, Health, Education and Skills	Frank 2006-07	3,467,021
Identity and Passport Service	IPS Passport Fees 2006-07	83,270
International Development	DFID White Paper 2006-07	103,201

Client	*Campaign title*	*Cost*
Job Centre Plus	Job Centre Plus Q4 Activity 2006-07	1,116,121
Land Registry	Land Registry Classified Advertising 2006-07	312,431
Learning and Skills Council	EMA Activity May to June 2006-07	1,774,305
Learning and Skills Council	LSC Train to Gain 2006-07	1,455,907
Learning and Skills Council	EMA Activity August 2006-07	411,832
Learning and Skills Council	LSC Classified Advertising 2006-07	4,046
Learning and Skills Council	National Skills Academies 2006-07	199,118
Learning and Skills Council	EMA Activity (February to March) 2006-07	1,724,718
MoD	MOD Veterans Ad 2006-07	41,316
National Blood Service	National Blood Service 2006-07	2,394,790
NHS	NHS Graduate Recruitment 2006-07	45,988
OFSTED	OFSTED Classified Advertising 2006-07	4,171
OFT	Consumer Direct 2006-07	228,497
OFT	Consumer Direct II 2006-07	106,755
QCA	QCA Classified Advertising 2006-07	2,303
QCA	QCA 2006-07	45,142
QCA	Optional Tests—Key Stage III 2006-07	22,073
Revenue and Customs	Anti Tobacco Smuggling 2006-07	91,993
Revenue and Customs	Self Assessment 2006-07	3,009,975
Revenue and Customs	Child Trust Fund 2006-07	1,864,310
Revenue and Customs	Tax Credits 2006-07	4,539,524
Revenue and Customs	Duty Stamps 2006-07	767,119
Revenue and Customs	VAT Simplified Schemes 2006-07	136,416
Revenue and Customs	Share Fishermen 2006-07	33,052
Revenue and Customs	PAYE 2006-07	391,514
Revenue and Customs	Construction Industry Scheme 2006-07	996,495
Revenue and Customs	Tax Evasion Campaign 2006-07	1,378,710
Revenue and Customs	Cross Tax 2006-07	1,308,664
Revenue and Customs	Frontiers 2006-07	43,204
Revenue and Customs	HMRC Miscellaneous 2006-07	5,596
Revenue and Customs	EU Enlargement 2006-07	73,784
Royal Air Force	RAF Miscellaneous Recruitment Ads 2006-07	2,526,324
Royal Air Force	RAF Air Cadets 2006-07	150,566
Royal Navy	Royal Navy Recruitment 2006-07	2,383,282
Security Industry Authority	SIA—ACS Awareness 2006-07	12,725
Security Industry Authority	Security Industry Authority 2006-07	35,302
Social Care Inspection	CSCI Advertorials 2006-07	66,925
Sport England	Sport England 2006-07	194,371
Trade and Industry	Consumer Direct—Thomson Directories 2006-07	581,424
Trade and Industry	DTI Classified Recruitment 2006-07	11,457
Training and Development Agency for Schools	Training and Development Agency for Schools 2006-07	7,550,986
Transport	DfT Campaigns 2006-07	12,021,791
Transport	DfT Classified Advertising 2006-07	41,393
UFI	UFI Learn Direct Advice 2006-07	3,839,967
UFI	Learn Direct Courses 2006-07	1,068,033
UFI	My Guide 2006-07	226,351
UFI	UFI Business 2006-07	102,865
UFI	UFI Cymru 2006-07	15,939
Visit Britain	Visit Britain Campaigns 2006-07	1,192,311
Welsh Assembly Government	Waste Awareness Wales 2006-07	322,773
Welsh Assembly Government	WAG Miscellaneous 2006-07	62,102
Welsh Assembly Government	WAG Cessation Anti-Smoking 2006-07	147,562
Welsh Assembly Government	Welsh Backs 2006-07	118,520
Welsh Assembly Government	WAG Smoking Ban and SHS in Public Places 2006-07	578,830
Welsh Assembly Government	WAG Climate Change 2006-07	33,340
Welsh Assembly Government	Firebrake Wales 2006-07	26,112
Welsh Assembly Government	Wales Mobile Phone Media Campaign 2006-07	48,404
Work and Pensions	DWP Classified Advertising 2006-07	71,358
Work and Pensions	Pension Credit ATL Q3-Q4 2006-07	398,323
Work and Pensions	Pension Credit ATL Q2 2006-07	197,210
Work and Pensions	Winter Fuel 2006-07	326,509
Work and Pensions	Benefit Fraud 2006-07 (some activity media only)	5,272,160
Work and Pensions	Child Support Agency Communications Campaign 2006-07	107,269
Work and Pensions	Benefit Error 2006-07	43,991

Client	*Campaign title*	*Cost*
Work and Pensions	Office of Disability 2006-07	59,435
Youth Justice Board	Youth Justice Board Classified Advertising 2006-07	25,464

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of Central Office of Information public advertising campaigns; and if he will make a statement. [202365]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* There are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising. The Central Office of Information is responsible for the cost-efficient procurement of advertising for the Departments that use its services. COI secured a 46 per cent. reduction in media costs measured against recognised industry benchmarks in 2006-07.

COI's own effectiveness is monitored by the National Audit Office, by independent private sector auditors, as well as by GSMAB.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK born and *(b)* non-UK born people of working age there were in employment in each year from 1997 to 2007, reflecting before and after reweighting as set out in table one of the ONS document, Employment of Foreign Workers in the United Kingdom (1997-2008). [207631]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many a) UK born and b) non UK born people in employment of working age there were in each year from 1997 to 2007, reflecting before and after reweighting as set out in table one of the ONS document, Employment of Foreign Workers in the United Kingdom (1997 to 2008). [207631]

The Office for National Statistics provided the information in table one of the article using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born outside the UK, age 16 or over, and in employment. However, because you have requested that the estimates are provided on the basis of working age, as in table one of the article, your question has been answered on this basis.

It should be noted that because country of birth is used to define foreign workers some people who are UK nationals will be included in the estimates. The employment levels are defined following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates of the total number of persons employed for UK and non UK born, using both 2003 and 2007 population estimates for those years that are available. Estimates using the 2003 weights are not available for the years 1998 and 2000.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: People in employment of working age[1] by country of birth[2] in the United Kingdom for the three months ending June each year

Million and percentage

	UK born		*Non-UK born*		*Total[3]*	
	Before reweight	*After reweight*	*Before reweight*	*After reweight*	*Before reweight*	*After reweight*
1997	24	24	2	2	26	26
1998	[4]—	24	[4]—	2	[4]—	26
1999	24	24	2	2	26	26
2000	[4]—	24	[4]—	2	[4]—	27
2001	24	25	2	2	27	27
2002	24	25	2	2	27	27
2003	24	25	2	3	27	27
2004	24	25	3	3	27	27
2005	24	25	3	3	27	28
2006	24	25	3	3	27	28
2007	24	25	3	3	27	28

[1] Working age is 16-59 for females and 16-64 for males.

[2] The country of birth question in the LFS may undercount the number of foreign born because:
it excludes students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent
it excludes people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites)
it is grossed to population estimates that only include long-term migrants (staying 12 months or more).

[3] Totals include those employed but did not state country of birth.

[4] Estimates are not available for this period.

Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much food waste *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208135]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office estate. The Cabinet Office does not monitor how much food waste it generates.

Where it has been practical to do so, food composting facilities have been installed.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the top 20 nationalities in the category, Rest of the World in table three of the ONS document, Employment of Foreign Workers in the United Kingdom (1997 to 2008) were in each year since 1997. [207629]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the top 20 nationalities in the category, Rest of the World in table three of the ONS document, Employment of Foreign Workers in the United Kingdom (1997 to 2008) in each year since 1997. [207629]

The Office for National Statistics provided the information in table three of the article using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born outside the UK, age 16 or over, and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total. Those in employment are defined following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates of the total number of persons employed who were born outside the UK, for the top 20 countries that were part of the Rest of the World category in table 3, for the time period requested. It should be noted that the EU15 (the UK and 14 European Union member States) and the eight countries that joined the EU in 2004 are excluded from the top 20 ranking.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This should be taken into account when basing conclusions on the ranking of the countries provided.

Employment levels[1] of the top 20 foreign countries of birth[2, 3] from excluding the EU15 and A8 1997 to 2008[4]

Rank	Country	Thousand Levels
1997		
1	India	197
2	Pakistan	80
3	Kenya	76
4	Jamaica	63
5	USA	62
6	South Africa	54
7	Australia	49
8	Bangladesh	42
9	Hong Kong	39
10	Canada	35
11	Uganda	32
12	Nigeria	32
13	Singapore	29
14	New Zealand	29
15	Cyprus	28
16	Ghana	25
17	Tanzania	25
18	Malaysia	24
19	Sri Lanka	22
20	Philippines	22
1998		
1	India	224
2	Kenya	89
3	Pakistan	75
4	USA	75
5	Jamaica	69
6	South Africa	55
7	Australia	45
8	Hong Kong	44
9	Bangladesh	44
10	Canada	42
11	Uganda	40
12	Cyprus	35
13	Nigeria	33
14	New Zealand	32
15	Sri Lanka	28
16	Malaysia	26
17	Tanzania	25
18	Singapore	25
19	Ghana	23
20	Zimbabwe	21
1999		
1	India	210
2	Kenya	92
3	USA	82
4	Pakistan	80
5	South Africa	68
6	Jamaica	56
7	Bangladesh	55
8	Australia	52
9	Nigeria	44
10	Canada	42
11	Cyprus	38
12	Hong Kong	37
13	New Zealand	36
14	Singapore	32
15	Uganda	32
16	Ghana	27
17	Sri Lanka	26
18	Tanzania	19
19	Malaysia	19
20	Zimbabwe	19
2000		
1	India	209
2	Pakistan	100
3	Kenya	81
4	Australia	77
5	United States	70
6	South Africa	69
7	Jamaica	54
8	Bangladesh	44
9	Nigeria	41
10	Sri Lanka	36
11	Cyprus	33
12	Canada	32
13	New Zealand	29
14	Hong Kong	28

Employment levels[1] of the top 20 foreign countries of birth[2, 3] from excluding the EU15 and A8 1997 to 2008[4]

Rank	*Country*	*Thousand Levels*
15	Malaysia	27
16	Singapore	27
17	Uganda	26
18	Turkey	26
19	Zanzibar (Tanzania)	25
20	Malta	24
2001		
1	India	202
2	Kenya	98
3	Pakistan	97
4	South Africa	89
5	United States	86
6	Australia	70
7	Bangladesh	59
8	Jamaica	58
9	Nigeria	45
10	Uganda	38
11	Hong Kong	37
12	Philippines	37
13	New Zealand	36
14	Canada	36
15	Sri Lanka	36
16	Cyprus	34
17	Zimbabwe	33
18	Singapore	29
19	Ghana	28
20	Malaysia	27
2002		
1	India	203
2	Pakistan	110
3	South Africa	90
4	Kenya	83
5	United States	78
6	Jamaica	70
7	Australia	69
8	Bangladesh	59
9	Sri Lanka	51
10	Nigeria	45
11	New Zealand	44
12	Zimbabwe	43
13	Hong Kong	43
14	Canada	39
15	Malaysia	35
16	Uganda	34
17	Cyprus	34
18	Philippines	33
19	Singapore	31
20	Ghana	30
2003		
1	India	230
2	South Africa	114
3	Pakistan	107
4	Kenya	85
5	United States	81
6	Australia	77
7	Bangladesh	57
8	Zimbabwe	54
9	Jamaica	53
10	Canada	52
11	Nigeria	50
12	Philippines	44
13	New Zealand	42
14	Ghana	42
15	Sri Lanka	40
16	Hong Kong	38
17	Uganda	38
18	Malaysia	38
19	Cyprus	31
20	Singapore	30
2004		
1	India	233
2	South Africa	134
3	Pakistan	104
4	Kenya	85
5	Bangladesh	83
6	United States	78
7	Australia	73
8	Jamaica	60
9	Zimbabwe	57
10	Hong Kong	54
11	Nigeria	50
12	Philippines	47
13	New Zealand	42
14	Canada	41
15	Ghana	40
16	Sri Lanka	38
17	Uganda	35
18	Singapore	34
19	Turkey	30
20	Malaysia	29
2005		
1	India	258
2	South Africa	134
3	Australia	100
4	Pakistan	92
5	Kenya	88
6	United States	86
7	Bangladesh	72
8	Zimbabwe	72
9	Jamaica	61
10	Sri Lanka	55
11	Canada	53
12	Philippines	52
13	Nigeria	52
14	New Zealand	51
15	Ghana	50
16	Hong Kong	49
17	Uganda	46
18	Cyprus	41
19	Malaysia	40
20	Singapore	30

Employment levels[1] of the top 20 foreign countries of birth[2, 3] from excluding the EU15 and A8 1997 to 2008[4]

Rank	*Country*	*Thousand Levels*
2006		
1	India	315
2	South Africa	135
3	Pakistan	106
4	United States	101
5	Kenya	91
6	Australia	90
7	Bangladesh	86
8	Zimbabwe	74
9	Nigeria	74
10	Philippines	64
11	Ghana	63
12	Sri Lanka	58
13	Jamaica	56
14	Hong Kong	43
15	Cyprus	41
16	Canada	41
17	Uganda	39
18	New Zealand	38
19	Malaysia	38
20	China	37
2007		
1	India	324
2	Pakistan	149
3	South Africa	132
4	United States	110
5	Nigeria	98
6	Bangladesh	93
7	Kenya	85
8	Australia	83
9	Jamaica	73
10	Zimbabwe	70
11	Ghana	70
12	Philippines	66
13	Sri Lanka	61
14	New Zealand	44
15	Canada	39
16	Hong Kong	38
17	Malaysia	34
18	Uganda	34
19	China	32
20	Turkey	31
2008		
1	India	326
2	Pakistan	168
3	South Africa	154
4	United States	104
5	Australia	95
6	Nigeria	95
7	Kenya	92
8	Jamaica	72
9	Philippines	69
10	Zimbabwe	68
11	Bangladesh	66
12	Sri Lanka	66
13	Ghana	59
14	Hong Kong	50
15	China	50
16	New Zealand	38
17	Brazil	38
18	Uganda	35
19	Romania	33
20	Malaysia	33

[1] Levels of employment are provided for the population aged 16 and over.

[2] The country of birth question in the LFS may undercount foreign born because:

it excludes students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent

it excludes people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites)

it is grossed to population estimates that only include long-term migrants (staying 12 months or more).

[3] Countries not included include the UK, EU14 and A8 countries.

[4] The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Data Protection

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what reports Nick Coleman has provided under commission to the Cabinet Office in the last two years. [194573]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* For details of the work Nick Coleman has been commissioned to provide, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 688-89W.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much was received in subscription charges to the governmentfunding.org.uk website in each of the last three years; [208797]

(2) what the average subscription charge for the governmentfunding.org.uk website is; and what average sum was received from (i) voluntary, (ii) statutory and (iii) commercial organisations in the last period for which figures are available; [208796]

(3) how many *(a)* voluntary, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* statutory organisations (i) subscribe, (ii) subscribed in each of the last three years to the governmentfunding.org.uk website and (iii) are eligible to pay subscription fees. [208798]

Phil Hope: The Government Funding Portal helps third sector organisations to locate and apply for Government grants. The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) provides grant funding for the Directory for Social Change (DSC) to manage the portal. This year they are introducing charges for users of the service they provide at a rate of £75.00 for organisations with an income of above £500,000 per year. The amount they receive from introducing charges this year for third sector organisations is a matter for DSC. The Office of the Third Sector's grant in 2008-09 to DSC will subsidise third sector organisations with an income of less than £500,000 per year.

The future provision of the portal will be put out to tender in accordance with standard procurement practice and Treasury Managing Public Money principles during the year.

Internet: Safety

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget for the Get Safe Online website is for 2008-09. [205363]

Edward Miliband: The budget for the website is a matter for getsafeonline.org. It is funded through contributions by private and public sector organisations to promote internet safety among the general public and small businesses.

The Cabinet Office contribution for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 was £150,000, The contribution for next year will be announced shortly.

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 24th April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2174W, on Ministers: official residences, what the budgeted cost of the redecoration undertaken as part of the lifecycle programme was. [205430]

Phil Hope: The lifecycle programme is delivered in the context of entire buildings and does not ascribe budget costs to individual rooms.

Unemployment: Young People

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the rate of youth unemployment was in Hemel Hempstead constituency at the end of each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [208495]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the rate of youth unemployment was in Hemel Hempstead Constituency at the end of each month since January 2005. [208495]

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. Unfortunately, sample sizes are too small to produce estimates of the rate of youth unemployment in the Hemel Hempstead constituency.

As an alternative, table 1 attached, shows the percentage of persons aged 18-24 claiming Job Seekers Allowance in the Hemel Hempstead constituency for each month since January 2005.

These figures, along with many other labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available for the Hemel Hempstead Parliamentary Constituency on the NOMIS website at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/pca/2030043201/report.aspx

Table 1: Percentage of persons aged 18-24, claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in the Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency, January 2005 to April 2008

Period	*Rate*[1]
2005	
January	4
February	4
March	4
April	4
May	4
June	4
July	4
August	5
September	5
October	4
November	4
December	4
2006	
January	4
February	5
March	5
April	5
May	5
June	5
July	5
August	5
September	5
October	5
November	5
December	4
2007	
January	4
February	5
March	5
April	4
May	4
June	4
July	4
August	4
September	4
October	3
November	3
December	3
2008	
January	3
February	4
March	4
April	4

[1] Rates for all periods are based on mid-2005 population estimates.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to allow consortiums of secondary schools to become single academies; and if he will make a statement. [207855]

Jim Knight: While the large majority of individual academies replace an existing underperforming school, a number of academies are the result of local authority reorganisation, and may replace one or more schools with a single academy.

Children in Care

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of looked-after children in each region receiving treatment or counselling for mental health problems; [208362]

(2) how many looked-after children in each local authority were moved to different placements in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [208363]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of looked after children in each region receiving treatment or counselling for mental health problems is not collected centrally. A range of measures to improve the health of looked after children were set out in the white paper Care Matters: Time for Change. We have recently introduced an outcome measure on the emotional health of looked after children in the local government national indicator set. The first data will be collected in April 2009. We will also publish revised guidance on promoting the health of looked after children which, for the first time, will be statutory for health bodies as well as local authorities. This will include guidance on the provision of targeted child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) for looked after children.

Information on the number of looked after children in each local authority that moved to different placements during the year ending 31 March 2007 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Children looked after during year ending 31 March 2007 who had more than one placement during the year[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Number of children
England	27,800
North East	1,620
Darlington	80
Durham	245
Gateshead	150
Hartlepool	70
Middlesbrough	130
Newcastle Upon Tyne	205
North Tyneside	125
Northumberland	155
Redcar and Cleveland	70
South Tyneside	120
Stockton-On-Tees	110
Sunderland	160
North West	4,440
Blackburn with Darwen	135
Blackpool	125
Bolton	155
Bury	110
Cheshire	265
Cumbria	180
Halton	60
Knowsley	120
Lancashire	565
Liverpool	335
Manchester	620
Oldham	170
Rochdale	130
Salford	240
Sefton	175
St. Helens	135
Stockport	165
Tameside	140
Trafford	85
Warrington	75
Wigan	185
Wirral	260
Yorkshire and The Humber	2,950
Barnsley	110
Bradford	335
Calderdale	130
Doncaster	220
East Riding of Yorkshire	140
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	265
Kirklees	185
Leeds	480
North East Lincolnshire	75
North Lincolnshire	80
North Yorkshire	185
Rotherham	155
Sheffield	370
Wakefield	135
York	90
East Midlands	1,640
Derby	170
Derbyshire	230
Leicester	175
Leicestershire	175
Lincolnshire	200
Northamptonshire	300
Nottingham	235
Nottinghamshire	145
Rutland	10
West Midlands	3,290
Birmingham	870
Coventry	240
Dudley	165
Herefordshire	65
Sandwell	230
Shropshire	95
Solihull	150
Staffordshire	305
Stoke-On-Trent	245
Telford and Wrekin	115
Walsall	190
Warwickshire	255
Wolverhampton	170
Worcestershire	190
East of England	2,520
Bedfordshire	120
Cambridgeshire	155
Essex	620
Hertfordshire	395
Luton	175
Norfolk	340

Children looked after during year ending 31 March 2007 who had more than one placement during the year[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Number of children
Peterborough	175
Southend-on-Sea	130
Suffolk	300
Thurrock	95
London	5,320
Inner London	2,530
Camden	125
City Of London	—
Hackney	210
Hammersmith and Fulham	170
Haringey	245
Islington	185
Kensington and Chelsea	95
Lambeth	275
Lewisham	230
Newham	275
Southwark	290
Tower Hamlets	170
Wandsworth	115
Westminster	140
Outer London	2,790
Barking and Dagenham	200
Barnet	165
Bexley	105
Brent	225
Bromley	70
Croydon	425
Ealing	200
Enfield	140
Greenwich	225
Harrow	55
Havering	95
Hillingdon	290
Hounslow	155
Kingston Upon Thames	45
Merton	45
Redbridge	100
Richmond Upon Thames	50
Sutton	65
Waltham Forest	140
South East	3,480
Bracknell Forest	55
Brighton and Hove	215
Buckinghamshire	120
East Sussex	195
Hampshire	545
Isle Of Wight	90
Kent	540
Medway Towns	95
Milton Keynes	140
Oxfordshire	210
Portsmouth	100
Reading	105
Slough	65
Southampton	180
Surrey	355
West Berkshire	35
West Sussex	365
Windsor and Maidenhead	35
Wokingham	40

Children looked after during year ending 31 March 2007 who had more than one placement during the year[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Number of children
South West	2,490
Bath and North East Somerset	45
Bournemouth	65
Bristol, City of	315
Cornwall	295
Devon	300
Dorset	120
Gloucestershire	210
Isles Of Scilly	0
North Somerset	80
Plymouth	210
Poole	70
Somerset	300
South Gloucestershire	75
Swindon	165
Torbay	100
Wiltshire	140

[1] Source: Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] Children looked after during the year includes children looked after at 31 March 2007 and who ceased to be looked after during the year.

[4] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. Figures at local authority level have been rounded to the nearest five and figures at region level to the nearest 10. Where the number was five or less (other than 0) this has been suppressed and replaced with a hyphen (—). As a consequence of our rounding and suppression, figures may not sum to the total.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children attended hospital following an accident within *(a)* nurseries and *(b)* a childminder's home in (i) Basingstoke constituency, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England in each year since 1997; [200560]

(2) how many data records have been lost and stolen from nursery premises in the latest period for which figures are available; [200561]

(3) what the average class size in *(a)* maintained and *(b)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries was in (i) Basingstoke constituency, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England at the latest date for which figures are available; [200562]

(4) what his most recent estimate is of the average time children in childcare settings spent engaged in outdoor physical activity in each of the last five years. [200565]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much and what proportion of the Transformation Fund has been spent; and if he will make a statement. [206907]

Jim Knight: The Graduate Leader Fund (£305 million over the CSR period 2008-11) superseded the Transformation Fund on 1 April 2008. Information on the first year of spend (i.e. 2008-09) will be provided to the Department by local authorities through their audited financial statements in the autumn of 2010.

Communication: GCE A-level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools will offer an A level course in communications and culture in the next academic year. [208540]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally. The latest publication containing information on achievement in A-level qualifications is SFR 02/2008 "GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006/07 (Revised)" and can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208387]

Kevin Brennan: In my Department, the breakdown of staff are as follows:

(a) 1,132 male (41.9 per cent. of all staff).

(b) 1,572 female (58.1 per cent. of all staff).

(c) 306 staff declared as from an ethnic minority (11.3 per cent. of all staff), 310 not known (11.5 per cent.), 113 prefer not to say (4.2 per cent.)

(d) 189 declared a disability (7.0 per cent.), 310 not known (11.5 per cent.), 120 prefer not to say (4.4 per cent.).

(e) 63 declared not heterosexual (2.3 per cent.), 312 sexual orientation not known (11.6 per cent.), 244 prefer not to say (9.0 per cent.).

These figures are based on self-declaration.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208385]

Kevin Brennan: My Department was created on 28 June 2007. Information on bonuses for 2008 for all staff will be available when pay negotiations are settled later in the year.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the education maintenance allowance in each year from 2006-07 to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [208334]

Jim Knight: Expenditure on the education maintenance allowance was £502.9 million in 2006-07 and £533 million in 2007-08.

The budget allocations for the education maintenance allowance for the CSR period are 2008-09 £549 million; 2009-10 £529 million; 2010-11 £529 million.

Latest expenditure estimates are 2008-09 £531 million; 2009-10 £544 million; 2010-11 £560 million. DCSF officials are working with the Learning and Skills Council to establish whether these latest estimates are a robust and accurate basis for funding.

Forecasts of expenditure beyond this period are not available.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what margin of error was permitted by markers passing the standardisation test to mark *(a)* Key Stage 2 and *(b)* Key Stage 3 national tests in (i) science, (ii) mathematics and (iii) English in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement; [207868]

(2) what requirement there is to provide feedback to markers from their standardisation tests before marking papers; and if he will make a statement. [207869]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the standardisation of markers for National Curriculum tests. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director, NAA, to write to the hon. Member in response to his questions. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 29 May 2008:

Further to your two parliamentary questions to the Secretary of State the National Assessment Agency (NAA) has been asked to place this letter in the House of Commons library as a formal response.

Marker Standardisation & Mentoring

The process for the standardisation of markers for National Curriculum Tests has changed in 2008 and therefore there are differences in the way the margin of errors are recorded for the period from 2005 - 2007 and 2008. These are defined in the table enclosed.

From 2005 - 2007 standardisation and the first sample, submitted at the same time, were the main method for detecting markers who were unable to consistently apply the mark scheme. The second sample, two-thirds of the way through the process, was a final check, but it was rare for a marker to be stopped at this stage. This manual process involved supervising markers checking the marking of those in their team and was very dependent on the individual consistency of the team leaders.

From 2008, the introduction of the online standardisation and benchmarking processes means that monitoring of markers has become an ongoing process and poor marking can be identified and corrected at several stages throughout the marking activity. The procedures have been designed to detect those markers that are unable to consistently apply the mark scheme and stop them. It also allows team leaders to identify where markers may require mentoring support to improve their marking to ensure that all markers consistently apply the mark scheme.

The online system for standardisation and benchmarking allows ETS, the test delivery agency, to monitor all markers against an agreed national standard set of scripts at all points in the process; monitoring both marking quality, through benchmarking, and marking progress on a daily basis. This will highlight were additional support may be necessary.

Team leaders should provide feedback on the standardisation papers completed to all markers in their team. Any markers who failed their first attempt at standardisation will receive mentoring before a second attempt is made. For those markers who have passed standardisation, feedback should take place either before marking starts or very early in the process. Higher priority is given to those markers who have only just managed to pass standardisation. If after mentoring, a marker fails the second attempt at standardisation or benchmarking, the marker is stopped and removed from marking.

If you are interested further I would be delighted to meet with you once this years tests are completed to give you a full briefing on the work of the NAA in all areas of assessment and school support.

Please contact my office if you would like to arrange this.

Standardisation and Sampling Metrics 2005 to 2007[1]

			2005 to 2007[1]	
			Absolute mark difference allowed	
Key stage	*Subject*	*Number of scripts in sample*	*Discretional second sample*	*Compulsory second sample*
2	English reading	10	6-7	8+
	English writing	10	13-22	23+
	Mathematics	10	16-19	20+
	Science	10	11-23	24+
3	English reading	10	13-22	23+
	English writing	10	24-33	34+
	Mathematics	10	10-19	20+
	Science	10	19-30	31+

[1] Data derived from 2007 NCT Policy Document.

Standardisation and benchmarking metrics 2008

		2008 Standardisation				*2008 Benchmarking (current 27 May) and may be subject to further tightening. Benchmarking is conducted typically every 90 scripts*			
Key Stage	*Subject*	*Number of scripts in sample*	*Percentage exact agreement*	*Percentage adjacent*	*Percentage discrepant*	*Number of scripts in sample*	*Percentage exact agreement*	*Percentage adjacent*	*Percentage discrepant*
2	English	5 reading and 10 writing	80		20	6	90		10
	Mathematics	5	90	0	10	4	97	0	3
	Science	5	90	0	10	4	95	0	5
3	English reading	10	80		20	6	85		15
	English writing	10	80		20	6	90		10
	Mathematics	6	90	0	10	4	97	0	3
	Science	6	90	0	10	4	93	0	7

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the *(a)* time taken to mark and *(b)* level of error in the marking of the 2008 standard assessment tests. [208814]

Jim Knight: None. However, as is usual during the test delivery period, both my Department and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) have received representations about a range of matters relating to national curriculum tests, including marking. The QCA has stated that all schools will receive their results for the tests in key stages 2 and 3 by 8 July 2008.

Education: European Union

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the *(a)* balance and *(b)* accuracy of the content of the (i) Passport to the European Union and (ii) The EU: what's in it for me booklets for 10 to 12-year-olds, produced by the European Commission. [205645]

Jim Knight: I am not aware of any representations to this Department concerning these two publications.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what distribution of the *(a)* Passport to the European Union and *(b)* The EU: what's in it for me booklets for 10 to 12-year-olds, produced by the European Commission there has been to schools in England; and how many of each have been distributed. [205646]

Jim Knight: These booklets are produced and distributed on request by the European Commission Representation in the UK. This Department has not been involved in the distribution. I am therefore unable to provide distribution figures.

Education: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding for educational-related projects his Department allocated to Warrington Borough Council for 2007-08. [208411]

Jim Knight: Warrington local authority was allocated £9.2 million of capital support in 2007-08 for investment in school projects. A further £43.5 million of capital support has been allocated for school projects for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. In addition, Warrington is currently receiving capital support, which will total £23.8 million, through the BSF one-school pathfinder scheme to renew one of its secondary schools with high building need.

Also, in 2007-08, the Youth Capital fund committed £0.11 million towards Warrington council, in addition to an Option for Excellence—ICT capital grant of £0.03 million. Lastly, £1.64 million was allocated in relation to Sure Start child care centres.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers are employed to provide education services in young offender institutions. [208561]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours of education per week are offered on average to inmates of young offender institutions. [208562]

Beverley Hughes: The YJB performance statistics for 2006/07 show that young people aged between 15 and 17-years-old in juvenile young offender institutions (YOIs) received an average of 26 hours education, training and employment (ETE) activity per week.

The information for young adults in YOIs who are 18 to 20-years-old, in the format requested, is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets exist for provision of education for inmates of young offender institutions. [208564]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth Justice Board requires that young people (aged 15-17 years old) in the juvenile prison estate receive 25 hours of learning, training and personal development activity per week. The YJB performance statistics for 2006/07 show that young people received an average of 26 hours per week.

For young adult offenders in Young Offender Institutions (i.e. 18-20 year olds), the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) started to implement an integrated Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) across England from August 2005. The LSC's providers are required to deliver the service set out in the 'Offenders Learning Journey' which specifies minimum standards for education and vocational training for offenders in Young Offender Institutions.

Extended Schools

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1139W, on extended schools, how many and what proportion of secondary schools provided the full core offer of extended services in each year for which figures are available. [206095]

Beverley Hughes: The following table shows the number and proportion of secondary schools providing access to the full core offer of services from 2006 onwards. These figures are derived from the TDA database based on returns from local authorities.

	Number of secondary schools providing access to the full core offer	*Percentage of secondary schools providing access to the full core offer*
September 2006	711	21
September 2007	1,500	44
May 2008 (as at 22 May)	2,080	62

There are many other secondary schools which are already providing access to parts of the core offer that are not yet included in these figures. Monthly variations can occur, resulting in figures going down as well as up, for example as a result of local school reorganisations.

Primary Education: Admissions

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what forecasts of the demand and supply for primary school places *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other agencies for which he is responsible have published in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [207328]

Jim Knight: The Department does not publish forecasts of the demand and supply for primary school places. LAs prepare their own pupil number forecasts based on local knowledge and the Department collects this information on an annual basis—five years ahead at primary level and seven years ahead at secondary level. The Department does not publish the data but LAs may publish their own forecasts.

Primary Education: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the *(a)* demand for and *(b)* supply of primary school places in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [206339]

Jim Knight: The Department collects information from each local authority on the supply of school places through an annual survey. The most recent data available are for 2007. The number of school places was not collected in 2002 to allow for a change in the method of assessing school capacity. Currently the number of school places is calculated using the net capacity method of assessment which was introduced in 2003. Prior to 2003 the capacity of a school was calculated using the MOE (More Open Enrolment) method.

The available information on the number of pupils in schools in each local authority is derived from data collected via the School Census and is published annually by the Department.

The table provides the available information for a selection of years within the requested period. Figures for each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Maintained primary schools[1]: number of school places and headcount of pupils[2], 1998, 2001, 2003, 2007, London local authority areas

		1998		*2001*		*2004*		*2007*	
		Number of school places[3]	*Number of pupils*	*Number of school places[3]*	*Number of pupils*	*Number of school places[3]*	*Number of pupils*	*Number of school places[3]*	*Number of pupils*
	London	580,162	631,453	601,505	639,666	620,123	627,444	615,169	627,022
	Inner London	213,357	228,069	219,678	232,551	225,237	229,675	223,413	228,186
202	Camden	10,425	11,464	10,861	11,614	11,194	11,440	10,922	11,422
201	City of London	210	204	210	225	210	220	210	225
204	Hackney	17,166	17,985	17,497	18,053	17,577	17,948	17,267	17,893
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	9,493	9,475	9,230	9,467	9,606	9,790	9,367	9,736
309	Haringey	19,156	21,786	19,966	22,362	21,203	21,868	21,148	21,791
206	Islington	16,039	16,219	15,892	15,720	14,912	14,715	14,165	14,035
207	Kensington and Chelsea	6,641	6,675	7,087	7,027	6,940	7,022	6,975	7,025
208	Lambeth	20,661	19,753	19,536	20,020	19,175	19,843	19,423	20,109
209	Lewisham	19,732	22,147	20,418	22,897	22,262	22,078	22,079	21,785
316	Newham	27,056	29,181	28,341	31,292	29,767	31,129	29,958	30,579
210	Southwark	21,265	23,505	22,816	24,068	24,075	23,506	23,655	22,535
211	Tower Hamlets	21,940	22,166	22,051	21 ,989	21,308	22,183	21,351	22,531
212	Wandsworth	14,555	17,783	16,699	17,615	17,077	17,117	16,962	17,453
213	Westminster	9,018	9,726	9,074	10,202	9,931	10,816	9,931	11 ,067
	Outer London	366,805	403,384	381,827	407,115	394,886	397,769	391,756	398,836
301	Barking and Dagenham	16,663	18,157	17,427	18,638	17,831	18,451	17,919	18,756
302	Barnet	23,594	26,177	23,770	26,504	25,789	25,810	25,006	25,969
303	Bexley	20,466	22,703	21,062	22,551	21,038	21,467	20,280	20,460
304	Brent	19,629	22,428	20,976	22,903	22,964	22,817	22,905	23,308
305	Bromley	19,199	24,670	21,960	24,848	24,218	24,196	25,096	23,555
306	Croydon	28,722	31,062	29,918	31,305	30,222	30,272	29,338	29,243
307	Ealing	25,084	27,325	25,913	27,118	25,369	26,184	25,235	26,548
308	Enfield	23,376	26,462	24,761	27,094	26,217	26,813	26,719	27,423
203	Greenwich	20,692	21,665	21,071	21,033	20,638	20,601	20,617	20,880
310	Harrow	19,786	20,128	20,466	19,868	21,182	19,511	20,421	19,551
311	Havering	20,915	21,131	22,096	20,923	20,401	20,103	20,198	19,123
312	Hillingdon	21,176	22,798	21,966	24,422	23,700	24,204	23,579	24,205
313	Hounslow	19,332	19,716	18,576	19,439	18,700	18,966	18,494	19,062
314	Kingston upon Thames	9,188	11,591	10,009	11,827	11,169	11,217	11,047	11,617
315	Merton	13,798	16,252	13,608	15,544	15,266	14,549	14,787	15,076
317	Redbridge	20,189	22,011	21,007	23,872	22,208	23,640	22,159	24,461
318	Richmond upon Thames	11,307	12,246	11,559	12,370	13,311	12,560	13,538	13,005
319	Sutton	13,027	14,859	14,407	14,714	14,289	15,139	13,688	14,724
320	Waltham Forest	20,662	22,003	21,275	22,142	20,374	21,269	20,730	21,870

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupil numbers exclude dually registered pupils.
[3] Capacity of school was calculated using the MOE (More Open Enrolment) method prior to 2003.
[4] Number of school places is calculated using the net capacity method of assessment, which was introduced in 2003.
Sources:
Surplace Places Survey
School Census

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were educated in pupil referral units in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2005. [208534]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to PQ 201135 on 28 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 214W.

Pupil Referral Units: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils educated in pupil referral units achieved five GCSEs at grade A* to C in the last academic year for which figures are available; [208535]

(2) how many pupils educated in pupil referral units achieved GCSEs at grades A* to C in English, mathematics and science and at least two other subjects in the last academic year for which figures are available; [208536]

(3) how many pupils educated in pupil referral units attained no GCSEs at grades A* to G in the last academic year for which figures are available; [208537]

(4) in how many pupil referral units 25 per cent. or more of pupils obtained GCSEs at grades A* to C in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2005; [208538]

(5) in how many pupil referral units no pupils obtained GCSEs at grades A* to C in English, mathematics, science and two other subjects in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2005. [208539]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answers to PQ195329 on 20 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 1417W, and PQ196324 on 26 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 320W, which give information on the attainment of 15-year-olds in pupil referral units. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Epilepsy

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in maintained schools have been diagnosed with epilepsy; [207904]

(2) what proportion of school children with epilepsy have been identified as having special educational needs. [207916]

Jim Knight: Information on pupil's medical conditions is not collected centrally. However, a number of children who have epilepsy as a medical condition also have a special educational need (SEN) and we do collect information on children's type of SEN.

Information on the number of pupils at School Action Plus and with SEN statements by primary type of need can be found in table 9 of the Statistical First Release "Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008" which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

Children with epilepsy who also have SEN are likely to be included in categories such as physical disability, autistic spectrum disorder and other difficulty/disability.

Schools: Admissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of allocations to academy schools by pupil banding on neighbouring schools with results below the floor target in areas where places at existing schools which are oversubscribed are allocated on *(a)* distance from the school and *(b)* faith. [208189]

Jim Knight: Banding is not a means of selecting the most able: rather it is a method of ensuring that a school admits a fully comprehensive intake of pupils with a fair share of pupils of all ability bands. Selection by ability, in contrast, does result in the most able pupils being concentrated in certain schools. This is not a policy aim of this Government, neither in academies nor in general, and this is why we have legislated to prevent any new selection by ability in maintained schools, and why academy funding agreements prevent them from adopting selection by ability.

We have not undertaken any specific research into the effects of banding, either in academies or maintained schools. However, research published this year by Sheffield Hallam university "Secondary School Admissions", was positive about the effects of banding, finding that it "can mitigate social segregation especially in densely populated areas' and that it is "a powerful means of balancing intakes both by attainment and social characteristics".

However, admission arrangements should always be developed with an eye on the local context: what may be fair and equitable in one area may not be so in another. In agreeing academy admission arrangements or considering changes to existing arrangements, the Secretary of State seeks to ensure that the arrangements support fair access in the local area.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the selection of schools for rebuilding; and if he will make a statement; [207856]

(2) what role his Department has in regulating the selection by local authorities of schools to be included in rebuilding programmes; and if he will make a statement; [207857]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that local authorities allocate resources for rebuilding to the schools most in need of rebuilding; and if he will make a statement. [207858]

Jim Knight: Prioritisation of investment in school buildings is decided at local level, where there is best knowledge of local needs and priorities. To support good local decision making in school investment, local authorities and schools are encouraged to operate high quality asset management processes with robust assessments of priorities, aligned with those of central Government. Asset management planning should be a transparent, consultative and rigorous process, based on a survey of the needs of all schools in the area and should address sufficiency, condition and suitability needs. We give schools and authorities, three year certainty of capital funding so that they can plan ahead. All schools should know where their needs, including for rebuilding, are prioritised, and why.

Where local authorities participate in major rebuilding programmes including Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programme, they must prepare robust 'Strategies for Change' to demonstrate that their investment plans support a strong strategic delivery of education in their areas. Partnerships for Schools, our delivery agency for Building Schools for the Future, and the Department must be satisfied with these strategies before local authorities can proceed in the programmes. Guidance on preparing these strategies is available through

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolscapital

following the BSF and Primary Capital Programme links.

Schools: St. George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether steps were taken to encourage schools to celebrate St. George's Day in 2008 with extra-curricular activities. [208840]

Jim Knight: We value the importance of providing opportunities for young people, through the curriculum, to consider for themselves what it means to live in the UK today.

To ensure that young people have the opportunity to explore their own identity and issues around diversity, a recent review of the secondary curriculum added a new strand to the Citizenship programme of study called "Identity and Diversity: living together in the UK". Pupils are encouraged to consider these important concepts with their peers and teachers and in doing so develop their understanding of what it means to be a UK citizen.

We are also supporting the "Who Do We Think We Are?" week in June 2008, encouraging teachers to explore identity, diversity and citizenship with their pupils, in their schools, local communities and nationally.

The Department did not take any discrete steps to encourage schools to celebrate St. George's day in 2008.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools rated as *(a)* outstanding and *(b)* good by Ofsted since 2003 have subsequently been placed in special measures; and if he will make a statement. [207866]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert has responded directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 28 May 2008:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 207866: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many schools rated as (a) outstanding and (b) good by Ofsted since 2003 have subsequently been placed in special measures; and if he will make a statement.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Our records are such that it is clearest to provide you with data from the start of the academic year 2002/03 rather than the calendar year. I trust this is acceptable.

As of 23 May 2008, 75 schools judged good or better at inspection since September 2002 have subsequently been placed in special measures. Table A shows which of the 75 schools were judged good, very good or excellent at an inspection preceding the inspection which placed them in special measures, and the year of both inspections.

An explanation of these figures is important. Between September 2002 and July 2005, schools were inspected under the previous inspection framework (commonly known as Section 10), which used a seven-point scale ranging from excellent to very poor. Since September 2005, schools have been inspected under the current inspection framework (commonly known as Section 5), which uses a four-point scale ranging from outstanding to inadequate.

Not all schools inspected under the previous inspection framework have yet been inspected under the current inspection framework, including some that were previously judged good or better. Very few (19) schools judged good or outstanding after September 2005 have been re-inspected since that point. None of these 19 schools has been placed into special measures.

Table A: Number of schools judged good or better at inspection since September 2002, and subsequently placed in special measures (as of 23 May 2008)

		Year placed in special measures		
Year inspected and judged good or better	*Judgment*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*Total*
2002/03	Good	12	19	31
	Very good	2	5	7
	Excellent	0	0	0
	Total	14	24	38
2003/04	Good	0	22	22
	Very good	0	3	3
	Excellent	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	25
2004/05	Good	0	11	11
	Very good	0	1	1
	Excellent	0	0	0
	Total	0	12	12

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the likely impact of the new funding rules for students studying for a qualification that is lower or equivalent to one they already hold, with particular reference to the impact on qualified teachers wishing to take the new Masters in Teaching and Learning. [208353]

Jim Knight: The Masters and Teaching and Learning (MTL) will be rolled out to around 2,400 newly qualified teachers starting from September 2009, with a further cohort starting in September 2010: these teachers will be fully funded through the Training and Development Agency for Schools. My Department has discussed with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills their decision that from 2008-09 the majority of new students will not be publicly funded to study for a qualification that is equal to or lower than a qualification they already hold, and are satisfied that it will have no impact on the first two cohorts of TDA funded students taking up the MTL.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of qualified teachers working in *(a)* maintained primary schools and *(b)* maintained secondary schools have a postgraduate degree in (i) the main subject that they teach and (ii) another subject. [208352]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 6 June 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

After School Clubs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of parents used *(a)* after school clubs and *(b)* extended school provision in each of the last four years. [209396]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not collected centrally on the number and percentage of parents who use after school clubs or any elements of the extended school provision.

Children: Day Care

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector child care places there are in (i) Leeds Metropolitan District and (ii) Leeds West constituency. [209214]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not available in the form requested.

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. The table shows the number of places registered with Ofsted at 31 March 2008 for Leeds local authority.

Number of registered child care places in Leeds, position as at 31 March 2008-06-06

	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Out of school day care*
Places	4,900	8,500	5,300

Notes:
1 Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
2. Excludes the number of child care places in sessional day care and crèche day care.
Source:
Ofsted

Data from the 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey on the number and proportion of child care providers in England by type of ownership are only available at national level.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the level of provision of formal childcare during school holidays in each of the last four years. [209397]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested.

The estimated number of childcare providers in operation, from the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey, is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Numbers of childcare providers

	2003	*2005*	*2006*
Full day care	9,964	11.811	12,694
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	n/a	823
Sessional	11,892	9,966	9,681
After school clubs	4,534	n/a	7,656
Holiday clubs	2/781	n/a	6,386
Childminders	n/a	57,662	57,855

n/a = Not available.
Notes:
1.
Children's centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2006; therefore data are not available for previous years.
2. After school and holiday clubs were sampled differently in 2005 and comparable figures for this year are not available.

There were 6,386 holiday clubs in 2006, an increase of 130 from the corresponding number of 2,781 in 2003. Other types of childcare providers were asked whether they were also open in school holidays. Table 2 shows the proportion of childcare providers who said that they were open in holidays, for each year available.

Table 2: Proportion of childcare providers open during school holidays

	2003 (%)	*2005 (%)*	*2006 (%)*
Full day care	n/a	79	72%
Children's centres	n/a	n/a	96
Sessional	n/a	8	5
Childminders	90	92	90

n/a = Not available.
Notes:
1. Children's centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2008; therefore data is not available for previous years.
2. After school clubs were not asked about holiday opening hours, although 54 per cent. of after school clubs in the 2006 survey were open for 39 weeks a year.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the Personnel Security Standard expected of all external contractors before they are allowed access to his Department's information assets is. [209283]

Kevin Brennan: All external contractors are required to meet the HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard as a minimum. Dependent on the nature and protective marking of the information assets to which they will have access, contractors will also be required to have undergone a CRB check or national security vetting clearance as per Cabinet Office guidance.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on education in *(a)* publicly-run and *(b)* privately-run young offender institutions in each year since 1997. [208560]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Since the transfer of responsibility for offender learning and skills in 2001 from the Home Office to the Department for Education and Skills (now DCSF and DIUS) the following amounts were spent on education in publicly run young offender institutions:

	Spend (£)
2001/02	18,545,493
2002/03	27,748,445
2003/04	36,473,477
2004/05	49,722,160
2005/06	56,722,724
2006/07	63,155,062

(b) HMP YOI Ashfield is the only privately run YOI. It is not possible to give the amount that is spent on education as the contract is for a given price per place and does not extract the amount for education as a separate figure.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much money was spent per young offender on education in young offender institutions in each year since 1997. [208565]

Beverley Hughes: Youth Justice Board figures indicate that around £8,100 was spent on education for each juvenile young offender in young offender institutions in 2006/07.

Figures for the previous year's spend on education per young offender are not routinely disaggregated and can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners has *(a)* visited schools and colleges in Leicester and *(b)* met teachers and local education officials from Leicester since May 2005. [209448]

Kevin Brennan: My noble friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners has not visited any schools or colleges in Leicester since May 2005. However, he has met with local authority officials from Leicester city council on one occasion since May 2005.

Pre-school Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis in research is for the early learning goals for literacy in the early years foundation stage. [209398]

Beverley Hughes: The early learning goals relating to literacy in the Early Years Foundation Stage are the same as those which ware developed for the Foundation Stage in 2000 by experts in the National Strategies and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, with advice from a wide range of academics and professionals outside Government. More recent research and data evidence supports the view that children's early development and experience of early learning has a long term impact on their outcomes. For example, the Review found that by the age of five the majority of children have little, if any, difficulty in grasping key features of phonics and children who received good early teaching in literacy make better progress than those who did not. An Ofsted survey following the Rose review showed that children enjoyed learning about phonics around the age of five and gained satisfaction in putting their learning into practice in their reading and writing.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what research he has commissioned on the developmental appropriateness of the early years foundation stage; and when he plans to publish the findings; [209419]

(2) what representations he has received on the developmental appropriateness of the early years foundation stage. [209420]

Beverley Hughes: I have had a great deal of discussion, and received a range of representations on, the early learning goals in the Early Years Foundation Stage, including about their developmental appropriateness. The early learning goals are developmental milestones for children at the end of the EYFS, most of whom are aged five and over. The very strong consensus is that the majority of the goals are pitched appropriately, but some representations have questioned two specific goals on aspects of early literacy.

These particular two goals are already included in the Foundation Stage currently used in early years settings. We know that around a third of children already achieve even the two goals which some representations have questioned, and that children who develop well in the Foundation Stage go on to do well in primary school. We need to make sure every child has the chance for a good start in life, and to develop and learn through enjoying active play.

Pupils: Assessments

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities achieved the expected level in each key stage examination in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [206222]

(2) how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities achieved five or more GCSEs at grade C or above in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [206224]

(3) how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities were entered for *(a)* no, *(b)* one, *(c)* two, *(d)* three, *(e)* four and *(f)* five GCSEs in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [206225]

(4) how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities moved schools in the 12 months before the sitting of their GCSEs in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [206226]

(5) how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities passed a GCSE at grade A* to F in *(a)* English, *(b)* science and *(c)* mathematics in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [206227]

Kevin Brennan: The information is as follows.

PQ 206225—Information on how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities were entered for *(a)* no, *(b)* one, *(c)* two, *(d)* three, *(e)* four and *(f)* five GCSEs in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the DCSF.

PQ 206226—Information on how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities moved schools in the 12 months before the sitting of their GCSEs in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the DCSF.

PQ 206227—Information on how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities passed a GGSE at grade A* to F in *(a)* English, *(b)* science and *(c)* mathematics in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the DSCF.

Information relating to the following PQs is collected centrally but can be provided only at disproportionate costs:

PQ 206222—Information on how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities achieved the expected level in each key stage examination in each of the last five years.

PQ 206224—Information on how many and what percentage of children looked after by local authorities achieved five or more GCSEs at grade C or above in each of the last five years.

Schools: Sports

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans are in place to provide schools with funding to ensure children engage in a minimum of two hours of exercise per week. [209195]

Kevin Brennan: The PE and Sport Strategy for Young People will be investing £782 million over 2008-11 to offer five hours of PE and sport per week for all young people aged 5-16, and three hours for those aged 16-19.

School Sport Partnerships—which include all maintained schools in England—receive funding to raise participation levels in PE and sport.

The 2006/07 school sport survey showed that 86 per cent. of 5-16 year olds participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport per week.

Sure Start Programme

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to expand Sure Start projects to areas that do not have access to this service. [209611]

Beverley Hughes: As of 6 June 2008 there are 2,907 designated Sure Start Children's Centres providing access to services for over 2.27 million children and their families. There will be 3,500 centres by 2010, a children's centre for every community in England offering permanent universal provision.

Sure Start Programme: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places are *(a)* available and *(b)* planned under the Sure Start programme in Leeds West constituency. [209212]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start Children's Centres offer a range of services to children under five and their families including, in the most disadvantaged areas, integrated early learning and childcare. There are forty seven designated children's centres in Leeds, seven of which are located in the Leeds West constituency. Whilst we understand that all seven of these centres offer childcare, information is not held centrally about the number of childcare places in each centre. Further centres will be developed in Leeds so that by 2010 there will be a centre for every community. Details are not yet available on their precise location or the range of services that will be provided.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Eco Towns

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the proposed eco-town locations would involve development on land classed as green wedges or green gaps. [207557]

Caroline Flint: Designations of green wedges and green gaps may be held locally in old style local plans or unitary development plans that may have been brought forward into the new system of local development frameworks as 'saved policies'. This information is not held centrally.

Eco-Towns: Planning Permission

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government against which criteria the application for an eco-town at Kingston-upon-Soar in Nottinghamshire was assessed; in which of these areas the application was deemed inadequate; and if she will make a statement. [207908]

Caroline Flint: The application for an eco-town at Kingston-upon-Soar in Nottinghamshire was assessed against the criteria set out in the 'Eco-towns Prospectus', published last July, and copies are available in the Library of the House. An initial summary of the issues for this location and the other shortlisted locations is set out in the consultation document 'Eco-towns—Living a greener future'.

Eco-Towns: Public Participation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of proposals for eco-towns in *(a)* Leicestershire and *(b)* England, (1) what the open consultation procedure will entail; how local residents will be involved in the consultation process; and by what means local residents will be contacted; [208243]

(2) which stakeholders will be invited to contribute to the consultation on the proposed eco-town in Leicestershire; who is to lead the consultation process; and what arrangements will be made to notify local residents of the consultation. [208244]

Caroline Flint: The consultation process in respect of the proposals for eco-towns shortlisted in 'Eco-towns—Living a greener future', including Leicester, will vary according to the location and the status of the schemes being developed. Bidders are publicising further details of schemes locally and holding consultation events to involve residents and stakeholders, with input from local authorities who are also holding public events. As part of this they will also be identifying key stakeholders, and we would expect these to include local authorities, regional bodies, the Highways Agency, Natural England and Environment Agency.

In terms of the arrangements for consulting on the proposal in Leicester, I understand that the promoters are holding a series of consultation events and exhibitions on their proposals during June. They have also set up a consultation website and produced themed papers to support the events.

The Department will also be commissioning exhibition and consultation events about the eco-towns concept, the purpose of eco-towns and a national programme going forward, and this will include local people, local authorities and other stakeholders . The next key step for us in the process will be the publication in July—for further consultation—a draft planning policy statement and a draft Sustainability Appraisal on the locations, which will set out more detail for each location. When we publish the final shortlist of locations with potential to be an eco-town, individual schemes will need to come forward with planning applications and this will provide opportunity for further consultation with the public and stakeholders.

Home Information Packs

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it remains Government policy that the home condition report should be a component of the home information pack. [207394]

Caroline Flint: The home condition report remains an authorised part of the HIP.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified and registered home inspectors are in practice; and how many are in training. [207397]

Caroline Flint: Our latest estimate is that there are 822 accredited home inspectors, and 6,756 people registered for training.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of qualified and registered home inspectors which would be needed if every home information pack contained a home condition report. [207398]

Caroline Flint: We estimated, in July 2006 that up to 7,500 home inspectors would have been required if every home information pack contained a home condition report (HCR). This estimate was based on the assumption that many will not work full-time on preparing HCRs, and on the state of the housing market at the time.

Housing: Leasehold

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps the Government are planning to make it easier for buyers and sellers of leasehold homes and their agents to obtain information about service charges and other matters relating to the management of the property; [207392]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of requiring management information regarding leasehold homes to be held by the Land Registry in the same way as information held about commonhold homes. [207393]

Caroline Flint: As set out in the written ministerial statement made on the 8 May, *Official Report*, columns 37-39WS, we have established a working group of key industry and consumer representatives to develop proposals on the type and form of information to be required in a home information pack for a leasehold property. The working group will also report on establishing good practice for managing agents and landlords in the provision of leasehold information.

Local Authorities: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has provided for local authority capacity building; what definition she uses of capacity building; and which bodies received the funding in the latest period for which figures are available. [208093]

John Healey: Capacity building support is provided to enhance and develop authorities confidence leadership and skills to advance improvement and efficiency, as well as developing their capacity to learn, co-operate and share their knowledge and expertise about what works and how. It is ultimately about supporting authorities working with their local partners to deliver better outcomes, improve the quality of life in places and provide better public services. In December 2007, central and local government agreed and published the National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy (NIES). The document can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/efficiency

This strategy explains how central and local government will work together to transform and improve services and to build local leadership capacity.

In the CSR04 period (2005-06 - 2007-08), £150 million was allocated to local authorities, either directly or through partnerships, to fund capacity building. Additionally, £148 million Revenue Support Grant top-slice was provided to LGA central bodies to strengthen the capacity of local government.

In the CSR07 period, (2008-09 - 2010-11) up to £384 million has been provided to help fund capacity building. This includes 114 million of top-sliced Revenue Support Grant provided to the LGA central bodies and £270 million of support from Communities and Local Government.

Capacity building support is aimed at all counties, single-tier and district councils, as well as fire and rescue authorities. Other local bodies such as national parks authorities can also benefit from the programme. Since 2004, roughly 300 bodies have received funding for capacity building. A full list has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding will be allocated to local authorities through the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme in 2008-09. [208104]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2107W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was given to each local authority through the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme in each year that the scheme has been in operation. [208105]

John Healey: To date, local authorities in England have received £149,704,135 for 2005-06 and £384,751,482 for 2006-07 under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme.

I announced provisional additional payments of £13,509,463 for 2005-06 and £37,348,549 for 2006-07, as well as provisional allocations of £246,075,319 for 2007-08, on 2 April. We gave local authorities a period to raise queries on these provisional allocations, finishing on 16 May. I intend to announce the final allocations as soon as possible.

Decisions on public spending in 2011-12 will be made as part of the next spending review.

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1798-99W, on local government: pensions, if she will publish figures for the total cost broken down in each year for individual constituent local authority pension scheme groupings within the broader Local Government Pension Scheme. [208081]

John Healey: The information requested is shown in the following table. These data represent the actual amount of contributions paid by employers participating in the Local Government Pension Scheme based on SF3 annual returns submitted to Communities and Local Government by Scheme administering authorities in England. Statistical data relating to the LGPS from 1999-2000 onwards can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm

£ million

	Shire counties	*Metropolitan districts*	*Inner London*	*Outer London*	*Other authorities*	*Total*
1996-97	734	301	103	110	76	1,322
1997-98	848	338	121	130	83	1,520
1998-99	1,021	383	133	154	98	1,788
1999-00	1,131	401	159	171	110	1,972
2000-01	1,323	461	168	195	124	2,273
2001-02	1,534	545	181	216	141	2,617
2002-03	1,632	626	260	236	162	2,916
2003-04	1,874	680	214	275	174	3,217
2004-05	2,070	748	233	308	186	3,544
2005-06	2,374	863	300	357	230	4,124
2006-07	2,653	977	331	404	260	4,626

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether transitional relief in the 2010 business rates revaluation will be funded by the public purse. [208102]

John Healey: The Local Government Act 2003 made transitional relief schemes a permanent feature of non-domestic (business) rates revaluations, and requires such schemes to be designed to be financed from other business rates payers, so that the gross income from the revalued lists remains the same overall.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will answer questions 201301, 201302 and 201303, tabled on 21 April 2008, on the My Choice Homebuy Scheme. [209315]

Caroline Flint: I have now replied to the hon. Member's questions.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archives: Iraq

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in the project to digitise the proposed documents for Iraq's National Library and Archives. [208222]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has funded the British Library's initiative to digitise materials in its collection as part of its continuing contribution to the reconstruction of the collection of the Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA). At the request of Dr. Saad Eskander, director of the INLA, the Library is in the process of digitising approximately 450 historical maps of Iraq and around 20,000 pages of archival records from the India Office Records which relate to Iraq. Over 200 maps have been completed and delivered to Dr. Eskander already and it is expected that the project will be completed by the autumn.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the 23rd Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Session 2006-07, HC 488 on the Office Accommodation of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its sponsored bodies, how many posts identified for relocation *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* will be relocated by the end of (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [208212]

Margaret Hodge: To date, 661 posts from DCMS sponsored bodies have relocated already.

Current projections are that:

(i) a total of 795 posts in sponsored bodies will have relocated by the end of 2008;

(ii) a total of 855 posts in sponsored bodies will have relocated by the end of 2009; and

(iii) a total of 967 posts in sponsored bodies will have relocated by the end of 2010.

The DCMS has no plans to relocate posts. The planned target of 967 relocated posts exceeds by over 50 per cent. the Department's agreed target of 600 relocated posts.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* sport, *(b)* heritage, *(c)* arts and *(d)* tourism in each of the last five years, expressed as a percentage of its Request for Resources in each year. [208265]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* The information is as follows.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
RfR 1 total final provision (£000)	1,304,027	1,915,728	1,459,603	1,513,346	1,721,861
Sport					
Outturn (£000)	109,764	78,911	111,525	117,530	169,495
Percentage of RfR 1	8.4	4.1	7.6	7.8	9.8
Arts					
Outturn (£000)	301,452	367,648	398,172	410,589	431,198
Percentage of RfR 1	23.1	19.2	27.3	27.1	25.0
Heritage					
Outturn (£000)	179,130	187,910	195,670	196,070	208,000
Percentage of RfR 1	13.7	9.8	13.4	13.0	12.1
Tourism					
Outturn (£000)	21,512	56,883	53,928	54,428	55,425
Percentage of RfR 1	1.6	3.0	3.7	3.6	3.2

2006-07 was used as the final year as the Department does not yet have audited outturn figures for 2007-08.

Percentages are based on the final provision for Request for Resource 1 of the year in question.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Compensation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of applications to the War Pension Scheme have been refused since 2001; and what percentage of applications to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme have been refused since 2005. [200936]

Derek Twigg: This information is not currently available but it is planned to publish in July 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many compensation claims were rejected where the standard of proof was a consideration in the decision in each year since 2005. [205133]

Derek Twigg: The standard of proof is used in the consideration of all awards and rejections of claims made under the Armed Forces Compensation scheme and this is based on the balance of probabilities. A total of 1,650 compensation claims have been rejected between the scheme's introduction on 6 April 2005 and 31 December 2007. The figures quoted include all rejected first claims under AFCS. They also include cases of automatic consideration of entitlement to AFCS, where the individual is medically discharged. In many cases medical discharge results from injury or illness totally unconnected with service. The rejections for each financial year since 2005-06 are as follows:

	Number
2005-06	165
2006-07	745
April 2007 - December 2007	740

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are located outside the United Kingdom. [208758]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There were 27,500 UK Regular Forces personnel located outside the United Kingdom as at 1 October 2007.

Armed Forces: Disability Living Allowance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* average length of time was to determine disability allowances for (i) service personnel and (ii) veterans in each of the last five years. [203986]

Derek Twigg: Each claim under either the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or the War Pension Scheme (WPS) is assessed on an individual basis against the medical evidence gathered to support such an assessment. The availability of that medical information directly affects the processing times. Data are not readily available to determine the shortest and longest length of time taken to determine disability allowances under either scheme. To try and create such information would incur disproportionate effort and costs. However the average clearance times for processing total disability related claims (rejections and awards), under each scheme in working days are shown in the following table. The rise in the clearance times for AFCS between 2006-07 and 2007-08 reflects the increase in AFCS claims and the requirement to consider a worsening condition under AFCS. Worsening is where service after the AFCS introduction date may have caused or aggravated a condition being claimed under the WPS scheme.

	Service personnel/ veterans (AFCS)	*Veterans (WPS)*
2007-08	64 days	55 days
2006-07	35 days	54 days
2005-06	No target data	56 days
2004-05	Not applicable	63 days
2003-04	Not applicable	66 days

In view of the increased number of claims and the requirement to consider a worsening condition additional resources have been added to the AFCS team.

Army: Deployment

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what operational tours the *(a)* 2nd and *(b)* 4th Battalion The Rifles completed in the last five years; and what operational duties are scheduled for each battalion. [209393]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The battalions in question operationally deployed, in the last five years, are as follows:

Unit	*Deployment*	*Date*
2nd Battalion The Rifles (formerly 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets)	Op Banner (NI)	March to September 2004
	Op Telic 9 (Iraq)	November 2006 to March 2007
4th Battalion The Rifles (formerly 2nd Battalion Royal Green Jackets)	Op Oculus (Balkans)	2001 (six months)
	Op Telic 10 (Iraq)	June to November 2007

In addition, the 2nd Battalion The Rifles is currently deployed to Kosovo as part of the UK commitment to the NATO/EU shared pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force (ORF).

Announcements on future deployments will be made in the usual way.

Bombs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy will be on UK armed forces participating in operations where allied forces use cluster bombs after the signing of the treaty to ban their use; and if he will make a statement. [208349]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Convention on Cluster Munitions, as adopted by the UK and 108 other states in Dublin on Friday 30 May 2008, does not alter our ability to work with coalition partners on operations involving states who are not signatories to the agreement.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208513]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Royal Tournament

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the resumption of the Royal Tournament; and if he will make a statement. [208875]

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to reinstate the Royal Tournament; and what assessment he has made of the impact of its discontinuation. [209870]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The recently published National Recognition of the Armed Forces Study by my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) made 40 recommendations to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the armed forces. Recommendation 7 highlights the "very special opportunity" that the Royal Tournament offers for this, but also recognises that "in view of the current pressure on our armed forces it would not be practicable to revive it at the present time".

Mr Davies goes on to recommend that the MOD examines on an annual basis, and "in light of pressure from overseas deployments", the possibility of launching a modern equivalent to the Royal Tournament; and as with all 40 recommendations, we will respond in detail to this proposal later in the year.

In the meantime, we continue to support and promote events ranging from the Edinburgh Tattoo to ship visits to specific commemorations such as the recent 90th anniversary of the Royal Air Force, in order to maintain the armed forces' profile among the public.

Veterans: War Pensions

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans have received late payments of *(a)* war pensions and *(b)* compensation in each year for which records are available. [203211]

Derek Twigg: The SPVA deal with each case based on the specifics of that case. In considering claims under both schemes medical evidence of the condition(s) claimed, prognosis for recovery or ending disability and evidence of the link to service is required. Depending on the complexity and needs of the individual cases, gaining sufficient information in order to properly inform the correct decision can take a varying amount of time.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 6 November 2007 to the hon. Member for Hertfordshire North East, *Official Report*, column 861W, on Admiralty House, what the cost of *(a)* cleaning, *(b)* minor works and *(c)* refurbishment of the official ministerial residence in Admiralty House formerly occupied by the right hon. Member for Ashfield has been since he vacated the residence. [195002]

Mr. Watson: No cleaning, minor works or refurbishment costs have been incurred on the flat formerly occupied by my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield, which has remained unoccupied.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 February 1008, *Official Report*, column 685W, on Admiralty House: empty property, what the cost of *(a)* cleaning, *(b)* minor works and *(c)* refurbishment of the official ministerial residence in Admiralty House formerly occupied by the right hon. Member for Derby South was prior to its occupancy by the former Lord Chancellor. [195005]

Mr. Watson: A cost of £119 was incurred for a general clean and no minor works or refurbishment costs were incurred prior to the allocation of the flat to the former Lord Chancellor.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in his Department in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207471]

Mr. Watson: The table shows how much was awarded in end-of-year performance bonuses by the Cabinet Office to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at a senior civil service level in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many bonuses were awarded.

	End-year bonuses awarded (£)	*Number of end-year bonuses awarded*
All staff	1,750,242	884
Senior Civil Servants	895,000	123

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many residential properties the Cabinet Office owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192995]

Mr. Watson: Two residential flats at Admiralty House are currently vacant. One of these has been vacant for longer than six months and the other has been vacant for longer than 12 months.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Cabinet Office's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209244]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office is committed to promoting sustainable travel and reducing carbon emissions through its business travel.

Employees are encouraged to only undertake business travel if there are no suitable and practical alternatives available, such as videoconferencing facilities. If travel is unavoidable, employees are encouraged to travel by public transport. Any unavoidable air travel is currently offset as part of Cabinet Office contribution to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. An interest free loan is available for purchasing bicycles/equipment and/or a season ticket for public transport. Generally, there is no car parking provision for staff. However, some parking is available for disabled use, ministerial/senior official and operational vehicles. Any further initiatives will be considered as part of Cabinet Office membership of the Civil Service Travel Group.

Foreign Workers: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will estimate the number of workers in employment who were born outside the UK in each metropolitan authority or unitary authority in the North East in each year between 2001 and 2007. [206720]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the numbers of workers in employment who were born outside the UK in each metropolitan authority or unitary authority in the North East in each year between 2001 and 2007. [206720]

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born outside the UK, age 16 or over, and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total. Those in employment are defined following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates of the total number of persons employed who were born outside the UK, for each local authority in the North East. Estimates are obtained for the 12 month periods ending in February, for 2001 to 2004, from the annual LFS. For time series comparisons, the APS estimates from 2005 to 2007 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in March. The most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 month period ending in September 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: Persons aged 16 and over, born outside the UK, who were in employment in the North East, by local authority, 2001-07

Thousand

12 months ending	*February 2001*	*February 2002*	*February 2003*	*February 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*	*September 2007*
North East	29	35	34	37	43	45	48	48
Gateshead	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	6	6	10	12	14	14	13
North Tyneside	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
South Tyneside	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2
Sunderland	3	4	3	2	3	3	6	5
Hartlepool	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Middlesbrough	3	3	3	2	3	4	4	4
Redcar and Cleveland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stockton-on-Tees	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Darlington	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3
Chester-le-Street	1	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	[1]—	1	1
Derwentside	[1]—	1	1	1	1	1	1	[1]—
Durham	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	3
Easington	[1]—	1	1	[1]—	1	1	1	1
Sedgefield	[1]—	[1]—	1	1	1	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Teesdale	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Wear Valley	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Alnwick	[1]—	[2]—	—	1	[2]—	[1]—	—	[1]—
Berwick-upon-Tweed	—	—	—	[1]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Blyth Valley	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	[2]—
Castle Morpeth	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tynedale	1	1	1	1	1	2	[1]—	1
Wansbeck	1	[1]—	[2]—	[1]—	[2]—	1	1	1

'—'= Nil or negligible

[1] Sample too small to provide estimates

[2] Grossed total less than 500

Note:

The country of birth question in the LFS may undercount foreign born because:

it excludes students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent

it excludes people in most types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites)

it is grossed to population estimates that only include long-term migrants (staying 12 months or more)

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

Internet: Fraud

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he and his officials have had with the Attorney General's office on initiatives to combat online fraud. [207355]

Mr. Watson: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

National Income

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the gross value added was in *(a)* London and *(b)* each region on the latest date for which figures are available. [208824]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question about the difference in gross value added (GVA) between London and the rest of the UK. (208824)

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional GVA using official statistical geographies known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS). NUTS1 data cover the Government Office Regions of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

GVA for the NUTS1 regions for 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), each region's percentage share of the UK's GVA, GVA per head and GVA per head indices are shown in the table below.

NUTS1 regional GVA[1,2] 2006[3]

Region	*Total (£ billion)*	*Share of UK (percentage)*	*Per head (£)*	*Per head index (UK=100)*
United Kingdom[4]	1,128.80	100	18,631	100
North-east	38.8	3.4	15,177	81
North-west	111.3	9.9	16,234	87
Yorkshire and the Humber	82.1	7.3	15,968	86
East midlands	74.1	6.6	16,982	91
West midlands	89.0	7.9	16,583	89

NUTS1 regional GVA[1,2] 2006[3]

Region	*Total (£ billion)*	*Share of UK (percentage)*	*Per head (£)*	*Per head index (UK=100)*
East of England	109.9	9.7	19,599	105
London	196.8	17.4	26,192	141
South-east	177.2	15.7	21,514	115
South-west	89.5	7.9	17,467	94
England	968.6	85.8	19,082	102
Wales	42.7	3.8	14,396	77
Scotland	91.0	8.1	17,789	95
Northern Ireland	26.4	2.3	15,175	81

[1] GVA at current basic prices on residence basis.

[2] Figures may not sum due to founding in totals, per head {) figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

[3] 2006 estimates are provisional.

[4] Excluding Extra-regio (off-shore contribution to GVA that cannot be assigned to any region).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome of the Ninth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was; and if he will make a statement. [208252]

Joan Ruddock: The ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Bonn, Germany from 17-30 May 2008. I represented the UK Government at the high level ministerial segment from 28-30 May. During this period I also held bilateral discussions with other Ministers, met representatives of UK stakeholders and attended side-events run by the UK-funded Darwin Initiative and by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

During the high level segment I announced new additional voluntary commitments by the UK Government to further CBD objectives. These include a £100,000 contribution to the preparation and production of the Third Global Biodiversity Outlook, and a further £100,000 contribution to the global study on The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, the initial findings of which were presented during the high level segment.

The COP adopted decisions on over 25 issues that included establishing an intersessional process to review the 2010 biodiversity target and use the findings to develop a new target or series of targets beyond 2010 for consideration by COP 10. Other key outcomes included:

A decision on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources (ABS) that agreed a process for three further intersessional ABS Open Ended Working Groups, together with a number of Ad Hoc Technical Experts Groups (AHTEGs), to ensure that the negotiating mandate for the international regime is concluded as soon as possible before COP 10 in 2010.

A decision on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity that agreed scientific criteria for identifying ecological or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

A decision on Biodiversity and Climate Change that secured a process for the CBD to contribute biodiversity expertise to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Bali Action Plan, including Reduced Emissions from Deforestation (REDD) in the form of a meeting of technical experts that the UK will part fund.

A decision that created an effective moratorium on Ocean Fertilisation activities which attempt to manipulate marine ecosystems to increase the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, with an exception for controlled research studies.

A decision that strengthened activities in the implementation of the Forestry Programme of Work including strengthening forest law enforcement and governance, increasing the links between forests and climate change mitigation, and adopting a precautionary approach to the release of GM trees.

A decision on the Agricultural Programme of Work including language on promoting the sustainable use of biofuels and developing sound policy frameworks as well as follow up intersessional work on this issue.

A decision on Protected Areas which provided for the enhanced management of existing protected areas and the establishment of additional ones.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the Act on CO_2 Public Engagement Campaign. [207721]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Government's "ACT ON CO_2" campaign aims to increase awareness and understanding of the relationship between climate change and CO_2 and encourages genuine sustained behaviour change. The estimated cost of DEFRA's core ACT ON CO_2 campaign in 2007-08 was £5.5 million.

Composting: Environment Protection

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of levels of emission of bio-aerosols from open windrow composting sites in the last period for which figures are available; what assessment he has made of implications for *(a)* human and *(b)* animal health of such emissions; and what guidelines his Department issues to planning authorities on applications for new open windrow composting sites. [207158]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* There are no estimates of emissions of bioaerosols from open windrow composting sites for any period.

In 2004 DEFRA published an independent study, "Review of the Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management", which concluded that on the evidence from studies so far, the treatment of municipal solid waste has at most a minor effect on health particularly when compared with other health risks associated with ordinary day-to-day living. In relation to composting, the study acknowledges that this an area where there has been less work and the science is less certain than for other waste management activities. The report is available on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/research/health/pdf/health-report.pdf

This is the most up to date source of information on open windrow composting sites.

Good site management is important in minimising risks to the environment and health from composting facilities. In 2005, the Composting Association published the Composting Industry Code of Practice, which brings together legislative requirements and good management practice to support the professional operation of composting facilities.

The Environment Agency has taken a position that there will be a presumption against permitting (and to object to any application) of any new composting process (or modification to an existing process) where the boundary of the facility is within 250 m of a workplace or the boundary of a dwelling, unless the application is accompanied by a site-specific risk assessment, based on clear, independent scientific evidence which show that the bio-aerosol levels are and can be maintained at appropriate levels at the dwelling or workplace.

In addition, Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 10 and companion guide provides guidance on waste planning. Environment Agency's position indicates that any application with 250 m would need a detailed risk assessment showing how bioaerosol emissions would be managed and reduced at sensitive receptors. Clearly open windrow composting would not allow sufficient management of emissions so would not be acceptable close to a dwelling or workplace.

Pollution Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to reduce the administrative burden associated with the implementation of the integrated pollution prevention control regulation. [206297]

Joan Ruddock: The pollution prevention and control regime was implemented through the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Regulations (England and Wales) 2000. The PPC regulations transposed several EU directives into domestic legislation.

In England and Wales the PPC regulations were superseded on 6 April 2008 by the Environmental Permitting (EP) Regulations 2007 (England and Wales). These new regulations bring together the PPC and Waste Management Licensing Regulations into one new regulatory system.

My Department has issued a comprehensive guidance package which is designed to provide those operating and regulating PPC activities under the EP regulations with information on the permitting procedure.

For the 400 or so installations regulated by local authorities, a revised, one-stop General Guidance Manual has been published to accompany the introduction of the EP regulations.

My Department will continue to look for opportunities to simplify the regulation of these installations, consistent with securing the environmental protection objectives of the legislation.

Wastes

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of waste *(a)* produced and *(b)* recycled in the (i) agriculture, (ii) mining and quarrying, (iii) sewage sludge, (iv) dredged materials, (v) household, (vi) commercial, (vii) industrial and (viii) construction and demolition sectors in each year since 1997. [205736]

Joan Ruddock: The available data for the requested waste streams are shown in the tables. Note that the geographical basis varies according to how the data are collected. Estimates for agriculture, household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition sectors are for England. UK estimates only are available for dredgings and mining and quarrying wastes. Figures for sewage sludge relate to England and Wales.

(i) Agriculture, England

	Agriculture waste arisings (thousand tonnes)
1998	239
2003	265
2004	224
2006[1]	316

[1] 2006 figures contain incorporate additional waste types (machinery, tyres, asbestos roof sheets, CFC gas and batteries) which were not included in estimates for previous years. These waste streams account for an estimated 83,000 tonnes in 2006.

Source:

England estimates of agricultural waste arisings based on Environment Agency modelling.

Estimates for 1998 and 2003 only cover material which are classified as waste following the incorporation of agricultural waste under the Waste Management (England and Wales) Regulations 2006. Agricultural waste excludes manure and slurry where they are applied to land as fertiliser for the benefit of agriculture on clearly identified parcels of land and where storage is limited to the needs of those spreading operations.

Farmers have several management options available to them including storage of waste on site for up to 12 months, recovery or disposal at a permitted waste facility, or registration with the Environment Agency for an appropriate waste management permit or exemption for on-farm recovery. There is little information available on the recycling and other management of agricultural waste.

Agricultural waste arisings are estimated using Agricultural Census data on the numbers of livestock and crop areas multiplied by unit waste arisings (per hectare or per head) which are based on a variety of sources. Therefore, these figures are only broad estimate of agricultural waste arisings.

(ii) Mining and quarrying, UK

	Minerals waste[1] (million tonnes)
1997	109.2
1998	100.8
1999	96.6
2000	95.9
2001	96.1
2002	95.6
2003	97.0
2004	95.9
2005	92.6
2006[2]	88.8

[1] Dry weight.

[2] Provisional.

Source:

DEFRA estimates based on the production data in UK Minerals Year Book, published by British Geological Survey, and applying product to waste ratios.

Production of mineral waste from UK mines and quarries is connected, in particular, to the extraction of coal, slate, china clay and ball clay because of high amounts of waste per tonne of mineral extracted, and with extraction of aggregates because of the scale of that sector of the industry. It includes material that is moved to gain access to the mineral resource, as well as mineral deposits that are uneconomic and processing wastes remaining after primary processing of minerals. The vast majority of these materials are non-hazardous and inert, and are managed by the operator at the place of operation.

There are no definitive statistics available regarding mineral waste management, as individual mines and quarries will manage wastes according to local conditions.

Following the coming into force of EU Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from the extractive industries (the Mining Waste Directive) on 1 May 2006, mineral waste has to be defined by reference to, and regulated in accordance with, this directive. The Mining Waste Directive has now been transposed into national law. Mine waste facilities will be subject to the new provisions by 2012.

(iii) Sewage sludge—England and Wales

Thousand tonnes

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Sewage sludge arisings[1]	942	873	936	941	1,137	1,249	1,280	1,221	1,369
Management of sewage sludge									
Farmland	486	490	474	557	745	748	803	856	995
Landfill	93	67	84	53	65	65	38	15	7
Sea disposal[2]	182	173	93	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incineration	88	81	184	211	216	232	227	189	243
Power generation/gasification[3]	—	—	—	—	—	52	50	—	—
Land reclamation/restoration[3]	—	—	—	—	44	84	106	115	80
Other[4]	94	62	101	121	67	68	56	45	44

[1] Total amounts of sewage sludge have increased as a result of the UWWT Directive requiring more treatment.

[2] Sea disposal has been discontinued.

[3] These disposal routes have been developed in recent years—there may have been some included in 'other' in previous years but the amounts would have been small.

[4] Other includes beneficial uses for land reclamation and forestry and soil and compost products.

Source:
Water UK (Water Companies; Scottish Executive; DOE (NI) Water Service).

Disposal by dumping at sea, which previously accounted for about one quarter of production, was banned in 1998 by regulations implementing the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC). The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) states that sludge should be re-used whenever appropriate and that disposal routes should minimise the adverse effects on the environment. Recycling to farmland is the current main disposal route (73 per cent. in 2005, up from 59 per cent. in 2000), followed by incineration (18 per cent. down from 22 per cent.). Disposal to landfill has significantly decreased in recent years (6 per cent. down to 0.5 per cent.) and use in land restoration/reclamation has increased (6 per cent. from 0 per cent.).

(iv) Dredged materials—UK

Million tonnes

	Dredged material[1]
1997	22.3
1998	17.4
1999	32.8
2000	16.6
2001	18.5
2002	16.4
2003	17.5
2004	15.8
2005	16.5

[1] Dry weight.

Source:
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), OSPAR commission.

Dredged materials are disposed of at sea in line with international obligations under the OSPAR and London Conventions.

(v) Household—England

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Household waste	22.5	23.3	23.5	24.8	25.1	25.5	25.8	25.4	25.7	25.5	25.8
Recycling	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.7	4.5	5.8	6.8	8.0
Percentage recycled	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	18	23	27	31

Source:
DEFRA Municipal Waste Management Survey and WasteDataFlow

Data from the first two quarters of 2007-08 indicate an increase in household recycling rate from 31 per cent. between April 2006 and March 2007, to 33 per cent. between October 2006 and September 2007.

Household waste includes household collection rounds ('bin' waste), other household collections such as bulky waste collections, waste from services such as litter collections, waste from civic amenity sites and wastes separately collected for recycling or composting through bring/drop off schemes, kerbside schemes and at civic amenity sites. Household recycling covers materials sent for recycling, composting or reuse by local authorities as well as those collected from household sources by 'private/voluntary' organisations. It excludes material which was collected for recycling from household sources but actually rejected at collection or at the gate of a recycling reprocessor. It includes residual waste from the household stream which was diverted for recycling by sorting or further treatment.

(vi) and (vii) Commercial and industrial—England

	1998-99	*2002-03*
Commercial		
Arisings (million tonnes)	28.6	30.3
Recycled (million tonnes)	8.1	12.1
Percentage recycled	28	40
Industrial		
Arisings (million tonnes)	40.1	37.6
Recycled (million tonnes)	18.6	18.7
Percentage recycled	46	50

Source:

Environment Agency Commercial and Industrial Waste Surveys 1998-99 and 2002-03.

Recycling tonnages include estimates on the management of waste to unknown or unrecorded routes and a proportion of waste being sent to transfer and treatment processes.

(viii) Construction and demolition—England

	1999	*2001*	*2003*	*2005*
Construction and demolition waste arisings (million tonnes)	69.2	88.9	90.9	89.6
Recycled (million tonnes)	24.4	43.3	45.5	46.4
Percentage recycled	35	49	50	52

Note:

These surveys only include construction and demolition England wastes which are suitable for processing into aggregate. Between 2001 and 2005, inert construction waste (suitable for reprocessing into aggregate) is estimated to have remained stable at around 90 million tonnes. Overall, the re-use and recycling (using crushers/screeners) of materials suitable for reprocessing into aggregates or recycled soil increased from 49 per cent. in 2001 to 52 per cent. in 2005. The amount of aggregate waste going to landfill has stayed stable in 2003 and 2005 at just over 30 per cent. The non-recycled materials are largely used for beneficial purposes such as land restoration but an estimated 18 million tonnes goes to landfill for disposal.

Source:

DCLG surveys on arisings and use of construction, demolition and excavation wastes

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Belarus. [207959]

David Miliband: The Government continues to have serious concerns about the lack of respect for human rights in Belarus and monitors the situation closely. The Government's assessment of the situation in Belarus can be found in our latest annual Human Rights report, available at:

www.fco.gov.uk

We will continue to work with our EU and US partners to raise our concerns and push for improvement.

The recent crackdown on civil society is worrying. We are particularly concerned by the Belarusian government's actions against protesters involved in the demonstrations on 25 March and 26 April and the severe sentencing of two more political prisoners, Sergei Parsyukevich and Andrei Kim on 22 April and 23 April for their participation in demonstrations in January 2008. The recent re-arrest of five individuals recognised by the EU as political prisoners soon after their release is also very worrying.

Democracy

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of states with a majority Muslim population that are likely to become democracies within the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [207735]

Meg Munn: We have not made a recent estimate but in his speech—"The Democratic Imperative"—in Oxford on 8 February, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary argued that

> "we should back demands among citizens for more freedom and power over their lives—whether that is reforming established democracies or supporting transitions to democracy; from Botswana to Indonesia, there are striking examples of successful representative democracies that demonstrate how universal values can be applied to diverse cultural, social and economic contexts."

We support democratic processes in all states and work through the UN and the EU to extend the implementation of democratic rights through multilateral processes. Through the Human Rights and Democracy programme fund, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office works with all governments and civil society to promote better electoral processes, the role of civil society and the freedom of expression.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the European Union to agree new sanctions on *(a)* Iranian oil and gas and *(b)* the Iranian financial sector. [207812]

David Miliband: We are pressing for a new EU Common Position to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1803, including a provision on increased vigilance over the activities of Iranian financial institutions. We are pursuing additional EU listings of entities and individuals based on the previous EU Common Position. We are also discussing a range of possible EU measures which would go beyond the scope of Security Council resolutions should Iran continue to fail to implement its international obligations. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has signalled, this could include a ban on investment in Iranian liquefied natural gas.

Lebanon: Politics and Government

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution of recent mediations of the Arab League to peace and stability in Lebanon. [207831]

Dr. Howells: The announcement of an agreement for Lebanon, 'the Doha Accord', on 21 May and the subsequent election of President Suleiman on 25 May are important steps forward for Lebanon. The UK pays tribute to Qatar and the Arab League whose efforts, both in Beirut and Doha, did so much to make the agreement possible. It is now important for Lebanon's future peace and stability that the agreement is implemented. We will continue to support the government and people of Lebanon over this important period.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the work of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission on a settlement for the Abyei region of Sudan. [208190]

Meg Munn: Following the fighting of 14-21 May in Abyei, the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), chaired by Sir Derek Plumbly, has been engaging with all the parties. There was an extraordinary plenary meeting of the AEC in Khartoum on 25 May to discuss Abyei. An AEC Working Group visited the area on 28 May to assess the situation and to urge both sides to resolve the conflict in Abyei.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on progress on the formation and integration of joint integrated units in Sudan under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [208191]

Meg Munn: We monitor closely the formation and integration of the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), which were established under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to improve security in disputed areas between north and south Sudan. The JIUs are made up of equal numbers of the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. We are encouraging donors to provide resources to the JIUs in order to improve their effectiveness.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has raised the issue of Abyei with the other international guarantors of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [208192]

Meg Munn: Since the fighting in Abyei broke out on 14 May, we have discussed Abyei frequently with the other international guarantors of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We support the work of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission as a suitable international body to monitor the implementation of the CPA and to broker a resolution for the dispute over Abyei.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the role played by the UN force in Abyei in trying to bring peace to that area of Sudan; and what representations he has made to the UN to bolster the effectiveness of that force. [207923]

Meg Munn: Observers from the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) were in Abyei during the fighting of 14-21 May and UNMIS senior officers played a supporting role in the brokering of a ceasefire. UNMIS has restricted movement within the Abyei region. The UK worked with UN Security Council partners to ensure that UN Security Council Resolution 1812, which renews the UNMIS mandate, makes reference to Abyei and calls on the parties to allow unrestricted access and operations in the disputed area.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides on the facilities each NHS accident and emergency department should have. [208423]

Mr. Bradshaw: The services it is appropriate for any national health service organisation to provide is a matter for local, not central decision. What is key is that patients have timely access to high quality, safe care, as close to home as is compatible with clinical safety.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much compensation has been awarded by his Department to its staff since May 1997; and what the reason for compensation was in each case. [206160]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department awards compensation to staff for a variety of reasons. The total value associated with each reason and the period this covers are presented in the following table. Figures are not available prior to 1 October 2003.

Reason	*Period*	*Amount (to the nearest £000)*
Untaken annual leave or flexileave	1 October 2003 to 31 March 2007	1,209,000
In lieu of notice when employment is terminated	1 October 2003 to 31 March 2007	3,561,000
Ex-gratia payments	1 October 2003 to 31 March 2007	54,000
Redundancy/severance	1 October 2003 to 31 March 2007	88,000

Health Services: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Newcastle City Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked him to consider *(a)* the transfer of the Sir Martin Roth Unit, Newcastle General Hospital to Prudhoe and *(b)* the closure, and partial transfer to Prudhoe, of the Nuffield Unit, Newcastle upon Tyne. [206723]

Ann Keen: The North East strategic health authority reports that a joint committee of the Newcastle City Overview and Scrutiny Committee is considering these transfers. However, referral has not yet been made to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1990W, on medical records: disclosure of information, where each of the NHS care records service registers are held; whether each is held electronically; whether each is accessible through the internet or N3; what security measures are in place to protect them; and on how many occasions they have been illegally accessed. [207657]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Electronic ('spine') Database of Patient Information that forms the core of the national health service care records service (NHS CRS) is hosted in secure data centres. The location of data centres is not made public to avoid compromising security arrangements and potential criminal exploitation of the information they hold.

Data centres must conform to the British Standards Institution information security management code of practice, referred to internationally as ISO17799:2005 and

ISO27001:2005, and must meet strict standards in terms of both the structure of, and control of physical access to, the buildings. There is a contractual requirement for staff employed in data centres to be security cleared. Regular review arrangements exist to ensure compliance with the relevant standards, and other contractual information security requirements.

To date there have been no identified breaches of the physical security at any of the 'spine' data centres, and no identified cases where unauthorised access to the database has been gained electronically from outside the NHS.

All patient-identifiable data transmitted to, from and via the spine travels exclusively over the N3 secure electronic network, which is protected using various network security controls and encryption. Access requires the use of a smartcard with a linked username and alphanumeric pass code. Smartcards are issued by a NHS CRS registration authority only when satisfactory evidence of identity and residence is provided in person by NHS staff.

Regular reviews of the end-to-end security infrastructure are undertaken to identify where industry best practice has changed or technologies improved so that these can be incorporated into the overall system.

In addition, the NHS maintains an effective liaison with the United Kingdom's information security authorities and others for the sharing of relevant advice and guidance on known information security threats and vulnerabilities.

Together these safeguards provide high levels of security assurance.

Mental Health Services: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average waiting times were for *(a)* adult, *(b)* adolescent and *(c)* child psychiatry in each mental health trust in the North East in each year between 2002 and 2007; and how many people were on waiting lists in each category in each year. [206719]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which trusts have *(a)* completed mapping and reviewing of all person-identifiable data flows, *(b)* made movements of data secure and *(c)* identified risk areas in data security. [207116]

Mr. Bradshaw: Effective information governance is the responsibility of individual national health service bodies. The NHS chief executive received assurances on 31 March from all trust chief executives that they had identified data security risk areas and were either meeting appropriate security standards or were actively managing risks whilst necessary improvements are made.

Information is not held centrally on which trusts have completed work on mapping and reviewing all person-identifiable data flows.

NHS: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the weighted capitation formula figure is for each primary care trust in England in terms of *(a)* per capita target and *(b)* per capita allocation for 2008-09. [206721]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table provides the target allocation per head and the allocation per head of unweighted population for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England for 2008-09.

£

PCT	*2008-09 allocation per head*	*2008-09 target allocation per head*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	1,563	1,602
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,702	1,764
Barnet PCT	1,442	1,348
Barnsley PCT	1,609	1,667
Bassetlaw PCT	1,394	1,445
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,269	1,264
Bedfordshire PCT	1,215	1,257
Berkshire East PCT	1,300	1,282
Berkshire West PCT	1,230	1,236

PCT	*2008-09 allocation per head*	£ *2008-09 target allocation per head*
Bexley Care Trust	1,406	1,401
Birmingham East and North PCT	1,605	1,641
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1,565	1,618
Blackpool PCT	1,708	1,704
Bolton PCT	1,542	1,574
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1,510	1,502
Bradford And Airedale Teaching PCT	1,503	1,520
Brent Teaching PCT	1,650	1,574
Brighton and Hove City PCT	1,562	1,559
Bristol PCT	1,425	1,410
Bromley PCT	1,405	1,361
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,216	1,221
Bury PCT	1,439	1,471
Calderdale PCT	1,454	1,417
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,230	1,256
Camden PCT	1,737	1,646
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	1,340	1,324
Central Lancashire PCT	1,441	1,432
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	1,972	2,043
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	1,395	1,442
County Durham PCT	1,646	1,666
Coventry Teaching PCT	1,548	1,604
Croydon PCT	1,444	1,418
Cumbria PCT	1,437	1,445
Darlington PCT	1,590	1,507
Derby City PCT	1,407	1,449
Derbyshire County PCT	1,395	1,411
Devon PCT	1,363	1,374
Doncaster PCT	1,567	1,598
Dorset PCT	1,388	1,403
Dudley PCT	1,423	1,433
Ealing PCT	1,595	1,495
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1,275	1,299
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,554	1,566
East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	1,276	1,300
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1,451	1,414
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,455	1,468
Enfield PCT	1,508	1,505
Gateshead PCT	1,716	1,717
Gloucestershire PCT	1,309	1,303
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,493	1,547
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,665	1,654
Halton and St Helens PCT	1,645	1,675
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,737	1,639
Hampshire PCT	1,288	1,281
Haringey Teaching PCT	1,688	1,679
Harrow PCT	1,463	1,364
Hartlepool PCT	1,653	1,701
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,639	1,606
Havering PCT	1,481	1,478
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	1,685	1,746
Herefordshire PCT	1,337	1,385
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,603	1,627
Hillingdon PCT	1,450	1,403
Hounslow PCT	1,563	1,493
Hull Teaching PCT	1,524	1,515
Isle of Wight IMHS PCT	1,524	1,579
Islington PCT	2,067	1,907
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,512	1,441
Kingston PCT	1,345	1,232
Kirklees PCT	1,413	1,403
Knowsley PCT	1,886	1,954
Lambeth PCT	1,858	1,650
Leeds PCT	1,444	1,399
Leicester City PCT	1,487	1,535
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,190	1,218
Lewisham PCT	1,799	1,616
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	1,346	1,389
Liverpool PCT	1,917	1,977
Luton PCT	1,433	1,485
Manchester PCT	1,759	1,823
Medway PCT	1,326	1,374
Mid Essex PCT	1,187	1,215
Middlesbrough PCT	1,711	1,737
Milton Keynes PCT	1,251	1,297
Newcastle PCT	1,725	1,697
Newham PCT	1,828	1,889
Norfolk PCT	1,333	1,365
North East Essex PCT	1,388	1,435
North East Lincolnshire PCT	1,464	1,461
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,436	1,443
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,368	1,392
North Somerset PCT	1,311	1,359
North Staffordshire PCT	1,430	1,425
North Tees PCT	1,405	1,456
North Tyneside PCT	1,541	1,542
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,269	1,266
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	1,304	1,355
Northumberland Care Trust	1,461	1,458
Nottingham City PCT	1,509	1,509
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	1,370	1,379

£

PCT	2008-09 allocation per head	2008-09 target allocation per head
Oldham PCT	1,573	1,618
Oxfordshire PCT	1,221	1,219
Peterborough PCT	1,552	1,486
Plymouth Teaching PCT	1,454	1,447
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1,313	1,313
Redbridge PCT	1,392	1,384
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,635	1,646
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,449	1,283
Rotherham PCT	1,549	1,569
Salford PCT	1,792	1,776
Sandwell PCT	1,616	1,667
Sefton PCT	1,639	1,605
Sheffield PCT	1,574	1,512
Shropshire County PCT	1,315	1,326
Solihull Care Trust	1,323	1,329
Somerset PCT	1,331	1,363
South Birmingham PCT	1,544	1,546
South East Essex PCT	1,409	1,421
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,178	1,188
South Staffordshire PCT	1,283	1,304
South Tyneside PCT	1,724	1,749
South West Essex PCT	1,392	1,425
Southampton City PCT	1,398	1,427
Southwark PCT	1,826	1,770
Stockport PCT	1,418	1,408
Stoke On Trent PCT	1,618	1,626
Suffolk PCT	1,274	1,300
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1,744	1,738
Surrey PCT	1,316	1,254
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,395	1,333
Swindon PCT	1,355	1,351
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,572	1,576
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,332	1,381
Torbay Care Trust	1,525	1,581
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,903	1,972
Trafford PCT	1,500	1,458
Wakefield District PCT	1,530	1,561
Walsall Teaching PCT	1,586	1,596
Waltham Forest PCT	1,628	1,616
Wandsworth PCT	1,579	1,411
Warrington PCT	1,419	1,420
Warwickshire PCT	1,321	1,350
West Essex PCT	1,377	1,366
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,324	1,291
West Kent PCT	1,297	1,297
West Sussex PCT	1,400	1,368
Western Cheshire PCT	1,459	1,459
Westminster PCT	1,627	1,458
Wiltshire PCT	1,246	1,247
Wirral PCT	1,680	1,675
Wolverhampton City PCT	1,606	1,664
Worcestershire PCT	1,311	1,335

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 123-4W, on NHS: ICT, if he will reconcile the figures in the table with the £12.4 billion cost identified by the National Audit Office on page four of its report, The National Programme for IT in the NHS; how much capital and revenue expenditure there was by *(a)* local NHS organisations and *(b)* central NHS organisations and Connecting for Health; what estimate he has made of the (i) capital and (ii) revenue expenditure on IT in the NHS in the absence of a National Programme; and what the (A) capital and (B) revenue expenditure on IT was in the NHS between 1989-90 and 2004-05 expressed as a percentage of NHS expenditure. [204073]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information in the table in the earlier reply relates to expenditure to date, and the future expenditure plans to 2010-11, of NHS connecting for health. As well as sums in respect of the National Programme For Information Technology (NPfIT), the table also includes those of the agency's other responsibilities.

The £12.4 billion was the National Audit Office's then estimate of the 10-year cost, to 2013-14, including both central and local national health service costs, of NPfIT alone.

The former figures therefore relate to a broader range of business activities than the latter, and cover a different time period.

The Department has not made an estimate of expenditure on NHS IT in the absence of a national programme but an independent review confirmed that the likely costs of. Each NHS trust undertaking procurements for IT solutions would cost £4.5 billion more.

Totals of expenditure on NHS IT, as a percentage of NHS expenditure, in the years for which information is shown in the following table.

	Combine local and central IT revenue spend as a percentage of NHS revenue	Combined local and central IT capital spend as a percentage of NHS capital
2002-03	2.0	[1]—
2003-04	2.16	9.35
2004-05	2.44	20.17
2005-06	2.49	23.37
2006-07	2.70	25.26

[1] Information not held centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the documentation his Department has sent to trusts in 2008 concerning *(a)* Connecting for Health and *(b)* Choose and Book. [205555]

Mr. Bradshaw: Most communications and information material aimed both at national health service staff and the public, and other documentation aimed at NHS bodies relating to the work of NHS "Connecting for Health", including choose and book, are now published on relevant websites. These are accessible by trusts who know to look there for key messages and update information. Documents, including data reports, are available on a call-off basis or made available on request.

Since 2007 responsibility for deployment planning and other key programme activities and associated resources has been given to strategic health authorities (SHAs) as a means of creating greater local ownership and to make the NHS more accountable for the delivery of the National Programme for Information Technology. Documentation arising from this responsibility is therefore generated locally within the NHS.

Exceptionally a letter was sent out on 7 February 2008 ("Choose and Book Release 4.0 and Free Choice (Gateway Ref. 9285)") informing the NHS about changes to the choose and book software that would be introduced to support free choice. Attached with the letter were a number of documents explaining the changes to support communications at a local level. In addition, the document "Impact of Free Choice Policy on Choose and Book Release 4.0—Essential information for Providers and Commissioners" was published on 18 March as part of a package of documents to support the roll out of free choice. In both cases documents were sent under cover of the chief executive's weekly bulletin.

Copies of the relevant documents have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the June 2006 National Audit Office estimate of the total cost of the NHS IT programme. [205859]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Audit Office's (NAO) estimate of the 10-year cost of the National Programme For Information Technology (NPfIT) to 2013-14 was £12.4 billion, including both central and local national health service costs. The NAO has reviewed this estimate to £12.656 billion, at 2004-05 prices, as part of its latest study of NPfIT published on 16 May 2008.

The following table was submitted as part of the memorandum of evidence submitted by the Department to the Health Select Committee in connection with the Committee's 2007 public expenditure inquiry on health and personal social services. It reflects estimated cost reductions not included in the NAO's estimate.

Projected lifetime central and local expenditure on the NPfIT

Expenditure type	*Expenditure (£ million)*
Original contracts	[1]6,648
Increased scope	[1]425
Additional services	[1]350
Total contracts	7,423
Central expenditure	[2]1,500
Total contracts and central expenditure	8,923
Cost reductions (Enterprise Wide Agreements, NHSMail, PACS)	[3]1,731
Total net central costs	7,192
Local NHS expenditure (estimate gross)	[4]3,400
Estimated local cost reductions	[5]2,457
Net local costs	943
Total gross programme costs	12,323
Total net programme costs	8,135

[1] Fixed price contracts.

[2] NAO estimate (£1,900 million) adjusted for costs relating to non-NPfIT activity and future reduction in size of NHS Connecting for Health.

[3] Difference between cost of central procurements and cost of equivalent procurements by individual NHS bodies.

[4] NAO estimate.

[5] Estimates based on case studies following early deployments.

Notes:

1. Considerable further savings are anticipated from wider programme benefits, eg improvements in patient safety.
2. Data quality: Of the estimated central and local 'cost reductions' (items 3 and 5), the former is a calculation based on current and historic contract prices; the latter is a grossed-up estimate for the NHS as a whole, based on individual case studies.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Discrimination

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the effect of the Age Discrimination Regulations 2006 on the number of people aged over 60 years undertaking further education. [207670]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners, and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force. Our strategy for World Class Skills and our reforms of wider adult learning are designed to ensure that everyone, whatever their age or background, has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life.

Protection from discrimination on grounds of age was introduced in the area of employment and vocational training through the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. The Regulations mean that further education and training providers are not allowed to set age limits for access to training unless they can show objective justification why there is a real need to apply such limits. The Government have decided that all courses at further and higher education institutions are covered by the age regulations, whether they are specifically vocational or more general in nature. This ensures that there is a unified and consistent approach to age-related practices and policies in relation to all such provision.

Fee concessions for Further Education (FE) provision are offered at the discretion (and cost) of individual colleges and other FE providers, such as local authorities, and I must stress that the Regulations do not bar providers from offering these fee discounts. Many colleges and other providers have longstanding, formal, informal and discretionary arrangements based on age when deciding eligibility for fee concessions, and it will continue to be the learning provider's decision as to whether to offer these subsidies to individuals. As a result, neither my Department nor the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) holds information on those learners who receive these concessions.

I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS:

> "Guidance on the vocational training aspects of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations is available on the DTI website. It is aimed at, amongst others, providers of further and adult education. The guidance makes it clear that age related practices, such as age related fee concessions, may be objectively justified where they are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. It is for providers to produce evidence of such objective justification if called upon to do so, or to take their own legal advice if necessary. Guidance on objective justification is also available on page 30 of the ACAS guidance on the Age Regulations."

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a summary of his discussions with the Learning and Skills Council on the impact on the number of people aged over 60 years undertaking further education as a result of the Age Discrimination Regulations 2006. [207671]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners, and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force. Our strategy for World Class Skills and our reforms of wider adult learning are designed to ensure that everyone, whatever their age or background, has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life.

Ministers in my Department have regular discussions with the Learning and Skills Council on a wide range of issues, including during the lead up to the publication of the annual Grant Letter to the LSC. The Grant Letter sets out the Government's priorities for further education and adult skills, including the expectations it places on the LSC in relation to equality and diversity. A copy of each annual Grant Letter has been placed in the Library.

Protection from discrimination on grounds of age was introduced in the area of employment and vocational training through the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. The Regulations mean that further education and training providers are not allowed to set age limits for access to training unless they can show objective justification why there is a real need to apply such limits. The Government have decided that all courses at further and higher education institutions are covered by the Age Regulations, whether they are specifically vocational or more general in nature. This ensures that there is a unified and consistent approach to age-related practices and policies in relation to all such provision.

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Apprentices

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether Government targets for apprenticeships include apprentices who have completed a programme-led course rather than a work-based craft apprenticeship. [208755]

Mr. Lammy: No. Targets for apprenticeships are for work-based apprenticeships only. Programme-led apprenticeships are an important progression route to a full apprenticeship framework. They are excluded from our targets because apprenticeships are employer led and these learners are not participating in a full apprenticeship framework of work-based training.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions there were in (i) the public sector and (ii) the private sector in each area covered by a sector skills council in the most recent year for which figures are available. [208846]

Mr. Lammy: Information about the number of public and private sector apprenticeship starts and completions within each sector skill area is not centrally available. We emphasised in World-class Apprenticeships our commitment to improve the quality and availability of information about apprenticeships and increase the number of apprenticeships available in the public sector. This will be a priority for the National Apprenticeships Service which will be operational from April 2009.

Apprentices: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was allocated to Warrington Collegiate for apprenticeships in each of the last five years. [209231]

Mr. Lammy: Information on Learning and Skills Council funding allocated to Warrington Collegiate for apprenticeships is provided in the following table. Data are only available from 2004-05.

Warrington Collegiate Apprenticeships funding allocation

Year	Age 16-18	Age 19+	£000 Overall
2004-05	497	132	629
2005-08	712	135	847
2006-07	888	227	1,094
2007-08	922	277	1,199

Source:
Learning and Skills Council

Foreign Students: Syria

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of British students who visited Syria to study *(a)* Arabic *(b)* Islamic Studies and *(c)* any other academic course in each of the last 10 years;

and what information he has on which institutions they attended. [209421]

Bill Rammell: Information on British students who go abroad to study is not available centrally.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* higher education institutions, *(b)* further education institutions, *(c)* schools and *(d)* other organisations have received money under the Aimhigher Initiative. [209462]

Bill Rammell: In the academic year 2007-08, £75 million was allocated to the 43 area and nine regional Aimhigher partnerships.

Partnerships draw up plans showing how they intend to use their allocations to benefit learners and to meet the aims of the Aimhigher programme. Funds are then distributed to schools, colleges, higher education institutions and other organisations via 'lead' higher education institutions (HEIs) and local authorities.

Schools, colleges and 'lead' HEIs account for these funds through the accountability arrangements that apply to their individual sectors in respect of the public funds they receive. Information on which individual organisations receive Aimhigher funds from 'lead' HEIs and local authorities is not, however, held centrally, and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of progress towards meeting the target of 50 per cent. participation in higher education by 2010. [209473]

Bill Rammell: In "Higher Education at Work—High Skills: High Value" we set out our long term vision that the UK should be a world leader on high level skills and in the upper quartile of OECD rankings by 2020. Consistent with that vision, we have set a long term primary target to increase the proportion of the workforce with high level skills from 31 per cent. now to over 40 per cent. by 2020. The target to increase participation in Higher Education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18-30 with growth of at least a percentage point every two years to the academic year 2010-11 will support this and is measured by the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR).

We have known for a long time that student applications fell for 2006/07—the first year of variable fees. We also know that they recovered strongly for 2007/08, to resume an upward trend. The fall in applications in 2006/07 has, unsurprisingly, caused the HEIPR for that year to fall to 40 per cent. We would expect to see an increase in the HEIPR for 2007/08 reflecting the 6 per cent. rise in student applicants from England for 2007/08 university entry compared to 2006/07.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students resident in Enfield North constituency entered higher education in each of the last 10 years. [209671]

Bill Rammell: HEFCE's "Young participation in higher education" publication includes the proportion of young people who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 by parliamentary constituency, although this only covers the years up to 2000. Participation rates based on this work are given on the supporting POLAR website:

www.hefce.ac.uk/polar

The proportion of young people from Enfield North who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 is shown in the following table. Figures are shown under the year in which the cohort turned 18.

Table: Proportion of young people who entered higher education at age 18 or 19

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Percentage from Enfield North entering HE aged 18 or 19	24	24	25	27
Percentage from England entering HE aged 18 or 19	29	29	29	30

Source:

"Young Participation in Higher Education", published by HEFCE

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which university vice-chancellors have made representations to him on the 2009 funding review for higher education in the last 12 months. [209478]

Bill Rammell: We have received no representations from vice-chancellors on the subject of the independent review of the first three years of the new fee arrangements for full-time undergraduates, although the subject is occasionally touched on in discussions that Ministers have with a range of stakeholders.

Our policy remains that there should be an independent review that makes recommendations for Parliament to consider. Ahead of that there are a number of pressing questions about what Government and universities should do over the next 10 to 15 years to ensure we have a world class system of higher education. It is on these questions that Government, universities and others should now focus.

Higher Education: Medicine

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the retention rate for medical students *(a)* undertaking courses leading to qualification as a doctor and *(b)* on widening participation programmes undertaking courses leading to qualification as a doctor was in the last period for which figures are available; [207710]

(2) what proportion of medical students entering medical education courses for *(a)* training leading to qualification as a doctor and *(b)* training leading to qualification as a doctor under the widening participation schemes successfully qualified as doctors in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [207713]

Bill Rammell: The most recent national figures for retention are from 2004-05. The proportion of young full-time first-degree entrants to medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses who left by the end of the first year was 1.9 per cent.

Data on medical completion are not held centrally.

Several medical schools run schemes to encourage applications from bright students from disadvantaged or non-traditional backgrounds, but data on admissions, costs and student outcomes for these schemes are not collected centrally.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the average total cost of medical education per student leading to qualification as a doctor for *(a)* a student on a conventional medical degree course and *(b)* a student on an extended medical degree programme (EMDP) in the last period for which figures are available; how many students participate in the EMDP and other widening participation programmes; how much the EMDP and other widening participation programmes have cost; and what plans he has for the future of such schemes. [207712]

Bill Rammell: Several medical schools run schemes to encourage applications from bright students from disadvantaged or non-traditional backgrounds, but data on admissions, costs and student outcomes for these schemes are not collected centrally.

The following table shows the notional Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) teaching grant associated with assumed full-time undergraduate medical students (in all years) for 2008-09. The grant is referred to as "notional grant" because HEFCE does not separately identify funding for medical students in institutions' grants. The sector average rate of notional HEFCE grant per full-time student from the attached table is £11,191.

2008-09 student numbers and notional teaching grant for medicine

Institution	*2008-09 full-time undergraduates*	*2008-09 notional grant*
University of Birmingham	1,817	20,151,941
University of Bradford	135	747,012
University of Brighton	307	3,377,264
University of Bristol	1,117	12,377,504
University of Cambridge	1,189	11,395,404
University of Durham	190	1,054,607
University of East Anglia	689	7,483,567
University of Exeter	433	4,573,548
University of Hull	297	3,237,002
Imperial College	1,826	20,462,840
Keele University	533	5,409,641
King's College London	1,984	23,849,948
University of Leeds	1,155	12,722,607
University of Leicester	1,050	11,828,459
University of Liverpool	1,569	16,880,835
University of Manchester	1,880	21,517,913
University of Newcastle	1,507	17,318,101
University of Nottingham	1,420	15,964,768
University of Oxford	918	9,957,734
University of Plymouth	464	4,824,451
Queen Mary, University of London	1,468	17,758,252
St. George's Hospital Medical School	1,190	14,256,791
University of Sheffield	1,101	11,908,903
University of Southampton	1,046	11,650,383
University of Sussex	292	3,160,311
University College London	1,625	20,194,701
University of Warwick	623	7,428,530
University of York	320	3,476,738
Total	28,144	314,969,755

Notes:

1. The 2008-09 notional grant includes notional mainstream teaching grant and targeted allocations (excluding widening participation).
2. Institutions may also receive income for medical students through tuition fees and Department of Health sources. Medical students may also contribute towards other formulaic HEFCE allocations such as for capital grants.
3. Institutions receive a block grant from HEFCE and do not necessarily distribute funding in the same way it has been calculated.
4. The student numbers for clinical and pre-clinical medicine have been taken from institutions' 'Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) Survey' for 2007-08 plus any additional student numbers for medicine for 2008-09.
5. The student numbers are for full-time undergraduates only and are fundable by HEFCE; part-time, postgraduate taught and non-fundable students are excluded.

Local Education Authorities: Discrimination

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department has provided to local education authorities on the effects of the Age Discrimination Regulations 2006 on their funding arrangements for further education. [207669]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners, and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force. Our strategy for World Class Skills and our reforms of wider adult learning are designed to ensure that everyone, whatever their age or background, has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 provide protection from discrimination on the grounds of age in the area of employment and vocational training. They mean that further education and training providers are not allowed to set age limits for access to training unless they can show objective justification why there is a real need to apply such limits. The Government have decided that all courses at further and higher education institutions are covered by the age regulations, whether they are specifically vocational or more general in nature. This ensures that there is a unified and consistent approach to age-related practices and policies in relation to all such provision.

I must stress that the legislation does not bar providers from offering fee discounts. Many colleges and other providers have longstanding, formal, informal and discretionary arrangements based on age when deciding eligibility for fee concessions. These are entirely at the discretion and cost of individual providers.

My Department has not issued guidance to local education authorities on the effects of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 because it would not be appropriate to do so. I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS:

"Guidance on the vocational training aspects of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations is available on the DTI website. It is aimed at, amongst others, providers of further and adult education. The guidance makes it clear that age related practices, such as age related fee concessions, may be objectively justified where they are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. It is for providers to produce evidence of such objective justification if called upon to do so, or to take their own legal advice if necessary. Guidance on objective justification is also available on page 30 of the ACAS guidance on the Age Regulations."

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much rail track has been laid in Helmand Province, Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion. [207784]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* According to information obtained from the Ministry for Transport and Aviation and the Governor of Helmand there has been no rail track laid in Helmand since 2001.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's annual budget for aid to Burma for 2008-09 has been allocated to *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* international non-governmental organisations and *(c)* Burmese aid organisations. [209407]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Based on current commitments and projections, the £12 million budgeted by DFID for Burma in 2008-09, excluding cyclone assistance, will be channelled as follows:

United Nations: 35 per cent.
International non-governmental organisations: 43 per cent.
Burmese aid organisations: 22 per cent.

Where money is channelled through United Nations programmes, such as the Three Diseases Fund and UNICEF's multi-donor education support, for delivery by international and local non-governmental organisations, it is included in the percentages for the non-governmental organisations rather than for the United Nations.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to seek to ensure that Government aid reaches those for whom it is intended in Burma. [207881]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All the aid delivered to Burma via UK transport has been consigned directly to international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or to the United Nations (UN). On arrival, it is met by DFID staff and transferred directly to the UN or international NGOs for storage and onward distribution. No UK relief items have been given to the government or the armed forces. The organisations receiving UK relief supplies have their own logistical arrangements to deliver supplies to communities affected by the cyclone, and to monitor their use. DFID logistics staff assessed their logistical capacity, and continue to monitor progress with distribution. We have a monitoring strategy in place involving field visits by Burmese and UK-based DFID staff.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the territorial extent of the agreement with the Government of Burma on distribution of aid to alleviate the effects of Cyclone Nargis is. [209399]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On 23 May, the Burmese Government told the United Nations Secretary General that it would lift barriers to access by international aid workers to areas of Burma affected by Cyclone Nargis. At the donor conference convened by United Nations and ASEAN on 25 May, the Burmese Government confirmed that all "genuine" international aid workers would be permitted necessary access to the affected region. The Burmese Government further agreed that aid delivered by civilian means would be accepted from all quarters "provided no strings are attached and no politicisation is involved".

Since the conference, there has been some improvement in access to the affected areas. The Burmese authorities have eased their visa regime and have granted some travel permits for international aid workers, including DFID staff, to visit the Irrawaddy Delta. However, much more still needs to be done by the Burmese Government to broaden access and accelerate the flow of aid.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to ensure that aid delivered to Burma via UK transport is not appropriated by Burmese armed forces. [209479]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All the aid delivered to Burma via UK transport has been consigned directly to international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or to the United Nations (UN). On arrival, it is met by DFID staff and transferred directly to the UN or international NGOs for storage and onward distribution. No UK relief items have been given to the Burmese government or the armed forces. The organisations receiving UK relief supplies have their own logistical arrangements to deliver supplies to communities affected by the cyclone, and to monitor their use. DFID logistics staff assessed their logistical capacity, and continue to monitor progress with distribution. We have a monitoring strategy in place involving field visits by Burmese and UK-based DFID staff.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208178]

Mr. Malik: Within the Department for International Development (DFID) we have used our intranet to publicise the need for staff to take a degree of personal responsibility towards meeting our energy efficiency targets. This includes messages on the need to switch off electrical equipment such as personal computers, screens, printers and phone chargers when not in use. We have also put 'switch-off' reminder stickers on many items of equipment, and display, in various locations throughout the offices, posters on energy efficiency as provided by the Carbon Trust. We have also made it a responsibility of our security staff to check and where appropriate switch off unused electrical items whilst carrying out their patrols.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department plans to publish an updated version of Taking Action-The UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world; and if he will make a statement. [208347]

Gillian Merron: A written ministerial statement was made in the House of Commons on 2 June, *Official Report*, columns 42-43WS, and a copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK's Strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements. [209013]

Mr. Thomas: The following Fairtrade items are available for purchase in my Department's UK staff restaurants:

Tea
Coffee
Hot chocolate
Confectionery
Bananas
Fruit juice
Water when available.

Of the above, tea, coffee, and fruit juice are available for official meetings and engagements, and we also provide fair trade sugar. Bottled Fairtrade water was also provided prior to 2008, but since then no bottled water, Fairtrade or otherwise, is purchased, as we now use filtered tap water at all meetings.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what the value was of Fairtrade produce purchased at his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what proportion of total revenue this represented. [209014]

Mr. Thomas: Our contract caterer does not maintain detailed records of Fairtrade purchases. However, as all our tea and coffee sales are Fairtrade, we estimate that this is approximately £110,000 pa, or 30 per cent. of the value of the total sales.

Food Waste

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208143]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not separately measure food waste as it represents, by volume, an extremely small proportion of our overall waste.

DFID remains committed to the government sustainable operations targets on waste. The latest (2007) report by the Sustainable Development Commission confirmed that we had made excellent progress already in reducing the overall volume of waste produced since 2004-05, with a 9.6 per cent. reduction over this period, against the target of 5 per cent. by 2010.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: Weston-Super-Mare

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will investigate whether ClearSprings complied with their obligations to consult local stakeholders before setting up a new bail hostel in Weston-Super-Mare. [207873]

Mr. Hanson: I have investigated ClearSprings consultation with stakeholders in Weston-Super-Mare. ClearSprings wrote to Avon and Somerset police on 13 June 2007 and have had subsequent meetings with officers. ClearSprings wrote to North Somerset district council on 6 August 2007 and again on 29 March 2008 and are still seeking a response. Avon and Somerset probation was contacted by email on 3 February 2008 and subsequent meetings have taken place. Accommodation provided by ClearSprings under the Bail and Accommodation Support Service is residential housing, not bail hostels.

Cognitive Self-Change Programme

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons in the high security estate provide the Cognitive Self-Change Programme. [208044]

Maria Eagle: One. HMP Long Lartin.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208172]

Maria Eagle: Guidance has been issued to all staff in the Ministry of Justice's headquarters, HM Prisons Service, HM Courts Service and Tribunals Service asking for personal computers to be switched off when not in use. For those members of staff unable to do so due to technical reasons, revised guidance has been issued asking them to switch off printers and monitors.

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of defendants sentenced to life imprisonment spent more than one year in local prisons immediately after sentence without *(a)* a structured sentence plan and *(b)* access to relevant rehabilitation courses in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [207890]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the numbers of all life sentence prisoners held for more than one year in local prisons without a structured sentence plan or access to relevant rehabilitation course is not available. To provide the information requested would require manual checking of individual records which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he issues for prison service staff at all grades working with life sentenced prisoners who continue to deny having committed their offences. [207895]

Mr. Hanson: Guidance on the management of life sentence prisoners who deny their guilt is contained in "Chapter 7 of Prison Service Order 4700", a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. As with all life sentence prisoners, those who deny their guilt will be released only when the Parole Board considers that it is safe to do so.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offending behaviour specialists are employed by his Department to work on issues relating to life-sentenced prisoners; and in which agencies, establishments or other units they are based. [208047]

Mr. Hanson: A broad range of multi-disciplinary staff work with prisoners in relation to their offending behaviour. This is often part of other duties and not limited to one group of prisoners. Therefore the requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by evaluating the jobs of all those involved at 142 establishments across England and Wales. The staff are primarily based in establishments, probation areas, and in headquarters groups in the Ministry of Justice supporting delivery.

Life Imprisonment: Education

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what courses designed specifically for life sentenced prisoners are available to life sentenced prisoners held in local prisons for *(a)* under 12 months, *(b)* between 12 and 24 months and *(c)* between 24 and 48 months. [207894]

Mr. Hanson: There are no specific accredited offending behaviour programmes targeted directly at life sentenced prisoners. Whether a prisoner requires a programme, and if so, which one, will depend upon the assessment of their risks and need rather than an individual's sentence. The National Offender Management Service offers a range of accredited programmes for offenders based on their specific behavioural needs as well as other regime activities such as education, work, and training. The timing and sequencing of interventions will depend on the needs of the individual concerned and the establishment.

If a course is needed and cannot be undertaken in an establishment, offenders are moved to establishments where their offending behaviour needs can be addressed.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners serving life sentences in *(a)* HMP Belmarsh, *(b)* HMP Wakefield and *(c)* HMP Whitemoor were engaged in education programmes in each of the last 48 months for which figures are available; and what the average number of hours per day spent by each prisoner in such programmes was. [207968]

Maria Eagle: To provide information in such detail would require each prison undertaking extensive research, some involving prisoners who by now would have been transferred elsewhere. The information is therefore not available in the form requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Life Imprisonment: Prison Accomodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time served by life sentenced prisoners in *(a)* category A and *(b)* category B prisons prior to their transfer to open conditions was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [207898]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the transfer of prisoners within the prison estate, and the average time served in each prison establishment, is not held centrally and to collect it would require extensive manual inspection of records.

Life Imprisonment: Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average period for imprisonment served by prisoners released during a life sentence was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [207897]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the average length of time served by all prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment in prison establishments in England and Wales in each year since 1997 can be found in the following table:

Table 10.5 Number of first releases from prison on life licence and average time served

Year of first release	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Total released	89	94	120	113	122	144	223	205	200	135
Mandatory lifers										
Number	78	86	110	101	111	117	185	152	156	100
Mean time served (years)	14	13	13	13	13	14	15	14	14	14
Median time served (years)	14	13	12	12	13	13	14	13	13	13

Table 10.5 Number of first releases from prison on life licence and average time served

Year of first release	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Other lifers										
Number	11	8	10	12	11	27	38	53	44	35
Mean tine served (years)	14	14	16	11	9	9	12	9	6	7
Median time served (years)	13	14	15	10	10	5	10	6	6	6

This table can be found in the publication Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Offences Against Children: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that victims of paedophiles have access to ongoing victim support services; and if he will make a statement. [208566]

Maria Eagle: As part of its £37 million annual grant from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Victim Support provides emotional and practical support for over 1.4 million victims of crime a year, including support for child victims of sexual offences aged 13 and over. For child victims aged 12 and under, Victim Support refers them to specialist support organisations. Clinically-accredited counselling can be commissioned by Victim Support as part of the support service it provides to child victims.

Over the last four years, specialist support organisations for victims of crime have been granted a total of £6.5 million from the Victims Fund. The primary focus of the fund has been on support services for victims of sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse.

In addition, the Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse included increasing access to support and health services as one of its key objectives and specifically committed to increasing access to services for victims of childhood sexual abuse.

Prisoners: Education

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons in the high security estate provide support for prisoners who have been assessed as requiring help with managing personal finances. [208043]

Maria Eagle: There is currently no formal provision in high security prisons to assist prisoners in the management of personal finance.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of prisoners in the high security estate with employment, training or education needs have an appropriate intervention planned for them; and what plans he has to increase this figure. [208042]

Maria Eagle: There are about 6,000 prisoners in the high security estate. The needs of every prisoner placed in the high security estate are assessed and matched with appropriate courses. The high security estate has about 90 employment interventions and 220 training and/or education interventions. The information requested is not recorded and would require examining the records of 6,000 prisoners and collating the information and would involve disproportionate costs. However, the aim is to ensure prisoners always receive appropriate interventions.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the attendance rate has been of offender managers at sentence planning meetings in each of the eight high security estate prisons over the last 12 months for which figures are available. [207969]

Maria Eagle: No central information is available about offender manager (OM) attendance at sentence planning meetings. Local monitoring by the eight individual high security establishments indicates that between November 2007 and April 2008 attendance and participation has varied between nearly 30 per cent. and 90 per cent.

The offender manager does not always have to attend in person at each sentence planning event. Some key sentence planning meetings require the management of the OM, others can be guided by the OM but managed on the day by the prison offender supervisor.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the *(a)* evidence received by and *(b)* findings and recommendations of the Blakey review of the effectiveness of measures to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs into prison. [208422]

Mr. Hanson: David Blakey has submitted his report and the director general of the National Offender Management Service is considering its conclusions and recommendations. An announcement on publication will be made shortly.

Terrorism: Prosecutions

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of entries made without warrant under anti-terrorism laws have resulted in a prosecution in each year since 2000. [200426]

Mr. Straw: The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office are currently working with the National Co-ordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged and convicted under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but following a terrorist investigation. As soon as this is complete a statistical bulletin to cover information on arrests and convictions will be published. Statistics on entries made without warrant under anti-terrorism laws are not currently held centrally, however, they are being considered for incorporation into the future publication.

Tribunals Service: Internet

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to enable the public to access judgements of the Tribunals Service on-line. [208546]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service encourages the on-line publication of tribunal decisions where it is considered appropriate to do so. 15 Tribunals already publish some decisions on-line. It is likely that the remaining tribunals will follow suit in due course. There will, however, remain a small number of tribunals that cannot publish decisions on-line for legal or sensitive reasons. These include: Gender Recognition Panel (GRP); General Commissioners of Income Tax (GCIT); Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT); and Social Security and Child Support Appeals (SSCSA).

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rate was for young offenders who had served a community sentence in the latest period for which figures are available. [208559]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the one-year proven re-offending rates for young offenders commencing a community sentence in the first quarter of 2005. Young offenders have been defined as juveniles (aged 10 to 17) and young adults (aged 18 to 20). Comparisons should not be made between the re-offending rates for 10 to 17 and 18 to 20-year-olds because of the different way re-offending rates are calculated for these age groups. A re-offence committed by a 10 to 17-year-old is included if it is proven by either a pre-court disposal or a conviction at court, whereas a re-offence committed by an 18 to 20-year-old is only included if it is proven by a conviction at court.

Age	*Frequency rate (per 100 offenders)*	*Severity rate (per 100 offenders)*	*Actual (yes/no) re-offending rate (percentage)*
10 to 17	298.2	2.1	67.2
18 to 20	182.9	1.2	47.3

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to her statement of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 399, on publication of hon. Members' addresses, what assessment she has made of the effect on the *(a)* personal safety and *(b)* ability to speak on controversial issues of hon. and right hon. Members if their home addresses are published and accessible; whether she has (i) sought and (ii) received security advice on the implications of such publication for the safety of right hon. and hon. Members, their families and neighbours; and if she will make a statement. [209161]

Ms Harman: As I explained to the House during business questions on 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 925:

> "I know that there is concern in all parts of the House about two aspects of this matter. The first is the personal security of Members. The second, which I consider even more important, is the need for Members to feel absolutely confident that they can speak in the House on difficult issues without fearing that, when they leave the Chamber having spoken about what they believe in, they will have to look over their shoulders because their addresses are in the public domain. In that regard, the House authorities are seeking legal advice on whether or not the Freedom of Information Act provides an opportunity for the House to defend Members' right to speak without having to look over their shoulders thereafter".

The Members Estimate Committee has taken advice from a number of sources, including on security matters. It is not the practice to disclose the source or nature of such advice. However, it needs to be borne in mind that, in the case of the fourteen Members and ex-Members for whom detailed information about allowances claims was recently released, the relevant Information Tribunal and High Court decisions allowed the redaction of home addresses where a Member had a special security reason for keeping the address of his or her home confidential.

TRANSPORT

Intercity Express Programme

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new carriages there will be under the Intercity Express Programme; whether bids have been received in accordance with the original bid date; and how many companies and consortia have tendered. [208286]

Mr. Tom Harris: The current proposition is for approximately 1,000 new vehicles, with options to extend this deployment to over 1,500 vehicles. The final number will depend on the cost and value for money of the proposals from the two consortia bidders when these are submitted on 30 June.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which 12 motorway sites identified as a high priority for resurfacing were resurfaced between 2004 and 2008; which four sites are planned to be resurfaced before the end of 2010-11; and which 10 sites are due to be resurfaced after 2010-11. [209082]

Mr. Tom Harris: The sites identified as high priority for resurfacing or due for resurfacing are:

(a) 2004-08

Site Reference	*Road Section*
2	M1 Junctions 5-8
3	M6 Junction 12 - Penkridge
8	M60 Junctions 1-2
15	A27 Chichester to Havant
17	A34 Peartree - Weston
18	A47 East Dereham: (Seaming Fen - East Dereham)
21	A1 Balderton - Coddington
22	A1 North Muskham - Carlton on Trent
23	M5 Junctions 26-27 Contract 3
24	M42 Junctions 9 10
25	M69 Junction 2 - M1 Contract 1
26	M62 Junctions 37-38

(b) 2008-09-2010-11

Site Reference	*Road Section*
7	M27 Junctions 5-7
10	A11:B1172toA47
11	A12 Ingateston - Margaretting
12	A12 Hatfield Peverel - Witham

(c) After 2010-11

Site Reference	*Road Section*
1	M1 -A1 Link
4	M20 Junctioa 1 / M25 J3
5	M20 Junctions 8-9
6	M25 Junctions 9- 10
9	A5 Milton Keynes (A422-A508)
13	A13:A1306toM25J30
14	A14 Claydon - B1067 underbridge
16	A30 Honiton to Exeter
19	A50: Doveridge Bypass
20	A419/A417 Cirencester and Latton Bypasses

Railway Stations

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stations on the national rail network are unstaffed *(a)* after 18.00 hours, *(b)* at the weekend and *(c)* outside morning and evening peak periods. [208282]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not hold this information. Staffing levels at railway stations is a matter either for Network Rail at its managed stations or for the relevant train operating company at the franchised stations.

Railway Stations: Crimes of Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many prosecutions were brought following assaults on railway station staff in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [208281]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Railway Stations: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to re-open urban rail stations in the Leeds metropolitan district area; and if she will make a statement. [209202]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has no plans to re-open stations in the Leeds metropolitan district area. The Passenger Transport Executive (Metro) may sponsor station re-openings, and they are currently investigating proposals to open new stations at Kirkstall Forge and Apperley Bridge

Rolling Stock: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost of Pendolino trains per carriage was in 2000; and what expected cost per carriage was used in the high level output statement for planned purchases of Pendolino trains. [208358]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 4 June 200[illegible]]:* Costs in relation to high level output statement schemes are commercially sensitive pending ongoing negotiations. Costs dating back to 2000 were a matter for the franchisee and leasing company. The Department was not directly involved on this transaction.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the first new inter-city express programme carriages to be *(a)* ordered, *(b)* delivered and *(c)* brought into service. [208283]

Mr. Tom Harris: The initial order for IEP trains is expected to be placed in summer 2009. The first pre-series trains are scheduled to be tested on the East Coast Main Line in 2013, with the first fleet deployed into passenger service from 2015.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether 1,300 new carriages are still expected to be produced under the high level output statement; and whether any of those carriages will be cascaded from other operators. [209232]

Mr. Tom Harris: The position is that set out in the Rolling Stock plan, issued on 30 January 2008 and available on the Department's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/rollingstock/rollingstockplan

which noted that accommodating the HLOS demand was likely to require around 1,300 additional carriages for English franchises by 2014.

The additional capacity will be secured through the procurement of new rolling stock; the procurement of the 1,300 carriages will result in a cascade of existing vehicles which are displaced by new. The 1,300 carriages will be a net addition to the existing fleet.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the announced new Thameslink carriages have been ordered. [208317]

Mr. Tom Harris: On 9 April 2008 the Secretary of State announced the start of a procurement exercise for the provision of between 900 and 1,300 new carriages for use on the Thameslink programme. It is currently expected that the formal contract to order these new carriages will be signed in summer 2009 with the first new carriages being introduced in to service in early 2012.

TREASURY

Belize Bank

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the government of Belize concerning the activities of the Belize Bank in the UK. [209225]

Kitty Ussher: No representations have been made by the Government of Belize concerning the activities of the Belize Bank in the UK to HM Treasury or the Financial Services Authority.

Debts

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* gross debt and *(b)* gross savings (excluding debt secured on housing) was by (i) 20, (ii) 25, (iii) 30, (iv) 35, (v) 40, (vi) 45, (vii) 50, (viii) 55, (ix) 60, (x) 65 and (xi) over 65 years olds in (A) 1980, (B) 1985, (C) 1990, (D) 1995, (E) 2000, (F) 2005 and (G) 2007, broken down by sex. [208789]

Angela Eagle: Data on gross debt and gross savings are published by the Office for National Statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. However, these data are not disaggregated by age.

Departmental Data Protection

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times his Department was held in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208491]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has had no data protection breaches.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204709]

Angela Eagle: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp

The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008.

The latest published statistics on the Treasury's progress against the targets, as at October 2007, are available on the Treasury's external website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/about_equality.cfm

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208402]

Angela Eagle: The figures in the following table are consistent with the data for 30 September 2007 published on the HM Treasury website. A further break down and analysis of the figures can be found on the website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/about_equality.cfm

Figures as at 30 September 2007

	Total number	*Percentage*
Male	646	55
Female	518	45
Ethnic minority	182	16
Disabled	52	4

With regard to *(e)*, the Treasury extended its diversity monitoring processes in September 2007, to collect data on employees who are not heterosexual. It expects to have robust data on what proportion of employees are not heterosexual by April 2009.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208371]

Angela Eagle: The information provided is for the performance year 2006-07.

Below SCS	*Number who received performance bonus*	*Percentage who received performance bonus*
Male	211	41
Female	172	41
Ethnic Minority	51	32
Disabled	10	27

SCS	*Number who received performance bonus*	*Percentage who received performance bonus*
Male	39	65
Female	20	50

Ethnic minority and disability for SCS is not reported for performance statistics as the numbers are too small to be meaningful.

The Treasury extended its diversity monitoring processes, in September 2007, to collect data on employees who are not heterosexual and expects to have data, by July 2009, on what proportion of employees who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were not heterosexual.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205836]

Angela Eagle: I refer to the answer I gave on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 917W to the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs (Mr. Herbert).

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings were held between Ministers and officials with third-party interest groups on the subject of changes to the system of vehicle excise duty prior to the 2008 Budget. [208845]

Angela Eagle: Prior to Budget 2008, vehicle excise duty was discussed at many meetings between Ministers and officials, and relevant stakeholders.

The Chancellor considered carefully all representations when forming his Budget decision on vehicle excise duty rates.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* housing wealth and *(b)* debt secured on housing was by owner-occupiers aged (i) 20, (ii) 25, (iii) 30, (iv) 35, (v) 40, (vi) 45, (vii) 50, (viii) 55, (ix) 60, (x) 65 and (xi) over 65 years old in (A) 1980, (B) 1985, (C) 1990, (D) 1995, (E) 2000, (F) 2005 and (G) 2007. [208788]

Angela Eagle: Data on housing wealth and debt secured on housing are published by the Office for National Statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. However, these data are not disaggregated by age and gender.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions a transfer of estate from a deceased to a surviving spouse incurring nil inheritance tax occurred in each of the last 10 years; and what the average length of the preceding marriage was in each year. [209233]

Jane Kennedy: The table shows the estimated number of estates above the inheritance tax threshold in force at the time where a transfer of some or all of the estate was free of tax as a result of spouse relief:

Year of death	*Estates*
1995-96	11,800
1996-97	8,900
1997-98	9,000
1998-99	9,800
1999-2000	11,400
2000-01	12,300
2001-02	13,300
2002-03	14,500
2003-04	15,900
2004-05	16,200

Information on transfers to spouses from estates below the threshold and lengths of marriages is not available.

Mortgages

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of recent trends in the mortgage and re-mortgaging market and their effects on the housing market and the wider economy. [209308]

Angela Eagle: The Government last published its assessment of economic prospects in Financial Statement and Budget Report (HC388) 2008, on 12 March, based on all relevant factors. The Government are taking steps to ensure that the effects of the global financial disruption are minimised, and borrowers are treated fairly during this period.

Northern Rock

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total loan to Northern Rock from the Treasury, replacing Bank of England loan, was in 2007-08; what total repayments were made in 2007-08; what the net loans were in 2007-08; and what the range of loan interest rates applying to such loans are. [206708]

Kitty Ussher: As reported in Northern Rock's audited accounts for 2007 published on 31 March 2008 and its latest trading statement of 12 May 2008, the outstanding loan due to the Bank of England has been reduced from £26.9 billion as of 31 December 2007 to £24.1 billion at 31 March 2008.

As set out in Budget 2008, the Government will, during 2008-09, replace the Bank of England's loan to Northern Rock with direct Treasury funding.

The Bank of England provides the loan at an interest rate premium, ensuring that the company does not receive a commercial advantage.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the findings and recommendations of the cross-Government Physical Activity Review have been finalised; and if he will publish them. [208220]

Yvette Cooper: In the context of the Government's commitments to deliver on the Comprehensive Spending Review, Olympics and Olympic Legacy, and provide a world-class community sports infrastructure, a number of government departments are considering the most efficient and effective way of maximising the impact of investment in sport and physical activity. Findings of this work will be integrated into a number of forthcoming announcements.

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax was collected from the bingo industry in each year since 2003; and what the contribution of *(a)* income tax and *(b)* national insurance was. [208196]

Angela Eagle: Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Bulletin, available at

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett.

Information is not available on the other taxes paid by the bingo industry.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Government Equalities Office: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for the Government Equalities Office were in each month since it was established; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196442]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established as a separate department on 12 October 2007. The rates paid to non-permanent staff since then and the numbers earning those rates are shown in the following table.

Hourly rate (£)	*October 2007*	*November 2007*	*December 2007*	*January 2008*	*February 2008*	*March 2008*	*April 2008*
11.26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13.10	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
14.55	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
14.79	1	2	2	1	2	1	0
16.41	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
16.93	0	0	0	2	3	2	3
18.88	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20.26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21.35	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
35.84	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
49.00	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
76.39	0	0	0	1	1	1	1

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are registered with the Child Support Agency on its (a) old filing system and (b) new filing system. [205353]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 6 June 2008:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people are registered with the Child Support Agency on its *(a)* old filing system and *(b)* new filing system. [205353]

The Child Support Agency manages both the old and new schemes of child maintenance on two separate computer systems; the old child support computer system (CSCS) which has been in place since the introduction of the Agency in 1993, and the new child support computer system (CS2) which was introduced to support the reforms in 2003.

At the end of March 2008, the Agency had a total of 1,361,900 live old and new child maintenance scheme cases registered on both the old and new computer systems. Of these, 683,000 were live new child maintenance scheme cases and 252,300 were live old child maintenance scheme cases registered on the new computer system (CS2). In addition 426,600 live old scheme cases were registered on the old computer system (CSCS).

Further information on the number of cases being handled by the Child Support Agency, broken down by old and new scheme is regularly published in Table 1 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar08.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204101]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions is a member of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). The GCOF aims to fulfil the Government's commitment to offset emissions attributable to all official and ministerial air travel in central Government. The GCOF runs for an initial period of three years (2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09).

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd, who won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 certified emission reduction credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits, over three years from a range of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions Plc, to whom EEA is the investment adviser.

The amount paid by the Department for Work and Pensions to the GCOF for the last two complete years is shown in the following table. DWP was not required to contribute for year 2005-06.

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Short Haul Flights	34,343.83	40,572.14
Long Haul Flights	3,501.91	2,757.59
Total	37,845.74	43,329.73

National Insurance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 44WS, on national insurance numbers, how many applicants for national insurance numbers have been refused national insurance numbers following right to work interviews since their inception in 2006. [206332]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* Management information shows that, since their inception in July 2006 and up to 30 April 2008, 11,301 applicants for national insurance numbers have had their application refused as a result of the right to work interview.

Social Security Benefits: Complaints

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints about *(a)* non-receipt and *(b)* loss of benefit payments have been received by his Department in the last six months for which the information is available. [206540]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not collected centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department spent on introducing voice risk analysis technology in its call centres in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what the projected expenditure is for 2008-09; [205223]

(2) how much his Department spent on *(a)* training and *(b)* recruitment of call centre operators to use voice risk analysis technology in its call centres in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what the projected expenditure is for 2008-09; [205224]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of benefit fraud of the use of voice risk analysis technology in each pilot area; [205225]

(4) how much funding has been allocated to each of the seven pilot areas that have trialled voice risk analysis technology; and what proportion of this funding has been administered by Capita. [205226]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* The first year of expenditure on voice risk analysis by Department for Work and Pensions was 2007-08 during which we spent £700,333. This was made up of £460,000 paid directly to the local authorities piloting the technology, and £240,333 DWP expenditure. £205,450 was spent on training; there were no recruitment costs.

A further £1.5 million is to be made available to local authorities in 2008-09.

Estimates of the effect on the levels of benefit fraud will be produced as part of the evaluation of initial and subsequent pilots.

Funding allocation to the seven local authority pilot areas is shown in the following table; in all cases the funding was administered by the local authorities.

Voice risk analysis local authority pilot funding 2007-08

	£
London borough of Harrow	124,650
Wealden district council	10,025
Derwentside consortium: Chester-le-Street district council, Derwentside district council; Durham city council; Sedgefield borough council	72,145
Warwickshire consortium: Coventry city council; North Warwickshire borough council; Nuneaton and Bedworth borough council; Rugby borough council; Warwick district council	56,000
City of Edinburgh council	71,580
London borough of Lambeth	62,800
Birmingham city council	62,800

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions have taken place for claiming benefits when out of the country on an extended absence since 1998. [207214]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits are not payable to UK citizens residing overseas; what the disqualifying period of residence is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [207213]

Mr. Timms: The following benefits are not payable to UK citizens who move permanently to reside overseas:

income support;

jobseeker's allowance;

pension credit;

housing benefit;

council tax benefit.

These benefits can, in certain circumstances, be paid for a limited period to people who are temporarily absent from the UK.

UK citizens cease to be entitled to these benefits from the day after their departure or, if already temporarily absent from the country, from the date their absence becomes permanent.

Disability living allowance, attendance allowance and carer's allowance are all residence-based benefits. In general, a customer is required to be ordinarily resident and present in the UK, to have been present for at least 26 out of the previous 52 weeks and not be subject to immigration control. There are some exceptions under domestic law and, following the European Court of Justice judgment C299/05, payment can be made under EC law to customers living in another European economic area (EEA) member state or Switzerland in certain circumstances.

Maternity allowance and incapacity benefit are not payable to UK citizens who go to live in a country which is not part of the EEA or Switzerland, or in a country with which the UK does not have a bilateral social security agreement that provides for export of the benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Publications

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of his Department's claim packs mention services provided by Citizens' Advice Bureaux. [203717]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department currently has 54 claim forms available to members of the public. Of these forms 29 either mention the services of the Citizens Advice Bureau or are accompanied by additional information, such as notes to aid the completion of the form, that mention the services they provide. This means that 53 per cent. of our claim forms mention the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 19 May 2008

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many admissions to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis via accident and emergency departments there were in *(a)* the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority area, *(b)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area, *(c)* the West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust area and *(d)* the Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997; [187614]

(2) how many admissions to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis via accident and emergency departments involving children under the age of 18 years there were in *(a)* the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority area, *(b)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area, *(c)* the West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust area and *(d)* the Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997. [187617]

[Official Report, 28 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1880-882W.]

Letter from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 28 February 2008. Some figures given in the table were incorrect and some of the totals did not sum. The correct answer should have been:

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows finished in-year admission episodes where the patient was admitted via accident and emergency departments with an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis. This is broken down by age and by the patient's primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) of residence and West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust. The latest available data are for 2006-07.

	East of England SHA area[1] of residence			*Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA of residence*			*Suffolk PCT area of residence*			*West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust*		
	Under 18	*18 and over*	*n/k*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*n/k*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*n/k*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*n/k*
2006-07	497	9,522	6	203	4,700	*	37	1,124	*	13	562	*
2005-06	485	8,970	*	242	4,357	*	50	924	*	22	388	*
2004-05	538	7,945	*	258	3,680	*	85	872	*	37	377	*
2003-04	498	6,682	*	235	3,461	*	83	886	*	29	331	*
2002-03	440	5,223	*	196	2,607	*	61	747	*	15	267	*
2001-02	458	5,006	*	196	2,463	*	83	662	*	18	236	*
2000-01	432	4,776	51	207	2,267	48	66	616	*	18	207	*
1999-2000	487	4,901	*	212	2,423	*	57	612	*	16	181	*
1998-99	410	4,636	7	188	2.316	*	55	598	*	8	184	*
1997-98	467	4,824	*	208	2,293	*	58	558	*	17	179	*
10 year total	4,712	62,485	*	2,145	30,567	*	635	7,599	*	193	2,912	*

[1] East of England SHA area includes the following historic organisations:
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA
Essex SHA
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA

Notes:

Finished in-year admissions:

A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the datayear. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Data Quality:

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 National Health Service trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

All Diagnoses count of Mentions:

These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.

Diagnosis Codes Used:

F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
T51—Toxic effect of Alcohol

Ungrossed Data:

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Low Numbers:

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 0 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk).

PCT and SHA Data Quality:

PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 20 May 2008

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

National Lottery: Brass Bands

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been given to brass bands from national lottery funds in each of the last five years. [201218]

[Official Report, 6 May 2008, Vol. 475, c. 850-52W.]

Letter from Margaret Hodge:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Barnsley, East and Mexborough (Jeff Ennis) on 6 May 2008. Figures given in the second table were incorrect. The table should have read as follows:

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Activities or projects that involve brass or silver bands to some extent	39,315	78,958	72,214	21,890	10,432	222,809
Activities or projects that predominantly or wholly involve brass or silver bands	35,860	60,521	23,687	67,410	13,930	201,408
Total	75,175	139,479	95,901	89,300	24,362	424,217

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 22 May 2008

HEALTH

Surgery: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled at each London hospital within *(a)* seven days and *(b)* 24 hours of the appointment in each of the last five years. [169375]

[Official Report, 10 December 2007, Vol. 469, c. 347-48W.]

Letter from Ben Bradshaw:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 10 December 2007. The table contains information about NHS organisations in London but unfortunately two were missed out and one trust from outside of London was included in error. In providing a new table, we have also changed slightly the title to make it more accurate, and included an additional footnote. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held in the format requested. The following table shows last minute cancellations in National Health Service Trusts in London from 2002-08.

Number of cancellations in NHS organisations in London on the day the patient is due to arrive, after they have arrived and in hospital, or on the day of their operation

Name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 Q1 only*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	2,168	2,147	2,426	1,566	906	140
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	1,346	404	399	279	294	66
Barts and The London NHS Trust	928	593	502	506	531	96
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	244	190	183	233	177	43
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	341	285	306	460	268	48
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	151	154	97	144	167	54
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	354	765	1,065	753	666	143
St. Mary's NHS Trust[1]	97	365	367	303	192	25
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	360	247	137	150	103	17
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	42	199	187	136	165	25
The Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	68	83	141	72	79	14
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	134	87	102	122	111	34
University College London NHS Foundation Trust	157	272	483	547	605	161
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	105	116	52	69	28	30
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	332	389	494	312	261	36

[1] Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and St. Mary's NHS Trust merged in October 2007 to become The Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

Notes:

1. Q1 2007-08 denotes Quarter 1, April-June 2007, latest period for which data is available.
2. The table shows the organisations as they existed, at the time of each collection.
3. Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; admin error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.
4. An operation which is rescheduled to a time within 24 hours of the original scheduled operation should be recorded as a postponement and not as a cancellation.
5. The QMCO collection does not record the number of postponements.

Source:

Department of Health dataset Quarterly Monitoring Cancelled Operations (QMCO)

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Floods: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider assigning the proceeds of the fine imposed on Severn Trent plc to improvement of the sewage and drainage systems in areas affected by last year's flooding; and if he will make a statement. [206892]

[Official Report, 20 May 2008, Vol. 476, c. 173W.]

Letter from Phil Woolas:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr. Robertson) on 20 May 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat is required by law to pay fines it collects from water companies into the consolidated fund.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 2 June 2008

HEALTH

Clear

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments his Department and its agencies have made to communications consultancy, Clear; and for what purpose. [191086]

[Official Report, 7 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 2854W.]

Letter from Ben Bradshaw:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 7 March 2008. The answer should have been:

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department paid invoices to Clear totalling £12,450.72 between May and June 2004. Records do not show the purpose of these invoices.

OLYMPICS

2012 Olympic Games (Budget)

3. **Mr. Alistair Carmichael** (Orkney and Shetland) (LD): What is her most recent estimate of the budget for the 2012 Olympic Games. [204432]

[Official Report, 12 May 2008, Vol. 475, c. 1060-62.]

Letter from Tessa Jowell:

An error has been identified in a supplementary Oral question to Question 3 from the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael). The error occurred in the Oral answer given to the supplementary question asked by the hon. Member for Strangford (Mrs. Robinson) on 12 May 2008:

Mrs. Iris Robinson (Strangford) (DUP): Can the Minister say what proportion of the budget is earmarked for Northern Ireland?

[Official Report, 12 May 2008, Vol. 475, c. 1060-62.]

The correct answer should have been:

Tessa Jowell: The budget is not apportioned regionally, but the opportunities for hosting training camps and volunteers, and particularly the opportunity to take up the some 75,000 contracts that will be let during the development of the Olympic park and the preparations for the Olympics, mean that, as is the case with Wales and Scotland, Northern Ireland businesses should benefit. The CompeteFor network is designed to ensure that they do so.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 3 June 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions staff employed by his Department defrauded his Department in the last 10 years. [200839]

[Official Report, 28 April 2008, Vol. 475, c. 42W.]

Letter from Anne McGuire:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 28 April 2008. The table should have read as follows:

	Employee fraud against the benefits system	*Other fraud by employees*	*Staff in post*
2003-04	23	78	130,786
2004-05	4	48	126,988
2005-06	52	118	119,972
2006-07	51	93	114,500

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 5 June 2008

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Milton Keynes Racial Equality Council

16. **Mr. Mark Lancaster** (North-East Milton Keynes) (Con): What funding the Government provided to Milton Keynes racial equality council in each of the last two financial years. [204060]

[Official Report, 8 May 2008, Vol. 475, c. 838-39.]

Letter from Barbara Follett:

An error has been identified in the Oral answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) on 8 May 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Barbara Follett: As the hon. Gentleman knows, Milton Keynes racial equality council has got £60,027 from central Government, but I agree that its funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission has been cut this year. That is because the commission awarded £10.9 million to successful applicants in its first grants this April. That was a competitive process because, as usual, the numbers of applicants exceeded the amount of money available, and entries were rigorously assessed. Milton Keynes REC can apply again later this year for the 2009-10 programme. However, Milton Keynes council has received £105,000 from the Government office for the east midlands extremism fund. The allocation of those funds is obviously a matter for the local authority, but it might be wise if Milton Keynes REC approaches it. I would be very happy to meet the hon. Gentleman.